

## Ballistic inspectors head for Iraq

BAHRAIN (R) — U.N. ballistic inspectors headed for Baghdad Sunday to verify whether Iraq authorities had finished destroying the country's remaining Scud missile launching pads and "superguns." The team is going to verify the destruction of some fixed site launchers and elements of 1,000-millimetre guns, team leader Patrice Palanque told Reuters before his departure from Bahrain, the field headquarters for U.N. inspectors visiting Iraq. Mr. Palanque said his 11-member team would fly to launch pads west and south of Baghdad to check whether they had been destroyed in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions aimed at scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. U.N. inspectors last month gave Iraq the go-ahead to destroy about 56 missile launching pads which had not been declared by the Iraqi authorities because they were not fitted with the launch arms to make them operable. They also supervised the start of the lengthy task of cutting to pieces the components of two 1,000-mm superguns, lying in a car park south of Baghdad. Iraq has already destroyed one assembled and two unassembled versions of a smaller 350-mm gun. It has also eliminated all 62 of its declared long-range Scud missiles. U.N. inspectors said in October all Iraq's known ballistic missiles and launchers would be eliminated within one month.



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## Lebanon to insist on Israeli withdrawal

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon said Sunday it would demand an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south at the Middle East peace talks in Washington. Foreign Minister Faris Bouez told reporters Lebanon's delegation would fly to Washington on Monday to prepare for the Dec. 4 talks. Subeill Shammah, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, will head the delegation consisting of six diplomats, two army officers and a legal expert. Mr. Bouez said Lebanon was determined to evict Israeli troops from a border enclave in the south in line with U.N. Resolution 425. "The state of war in Lebanon would not be over unless the south is returned to Lebanon," he said. Israel and its Lebanese militia allies control a 15-kilometre deep zone set up by the Jewish state in 1985.

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## King opens Parliament; speech is government statement

### Jordan committed to peace process, seeks just peace based on full Palestinian rights; government will curb external loans, carry out scheme to revive economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday reiterated Jordan's commitment to the ongoing Middle East peace process.

"For us, the issue of peace has been a commitment confirmed on all occasions and in all platforms," the King said in his annual address to Parliament.

"In agreeing to participate in the peace conference, we have moved in the direction of peace. We are confident of our people's ability to stand up to the challenge of the search for an honourable peace," the King said.

In a clear reference to opponents of the peace talks, the King said: "My government has responded positively to the invitation to participate in the peace conference. It has done so out of concern to defend our nation, to shoulder our responsibility towards our people and future generations."

Opening the third regular session of the 11th parliament, the King said in his traditional Speech from the Throne, that

"democracy does not confer on any single group a claim of monopoly over wisdom and truth. Nor does it provide a licence to justify encroachment on the rights and liberties of the vast majority of people, or question the role of the national security bodies entrusted with protecting the interest of the state and people."

The King then made clear that the country's commitment to peace was based on "international legitimacy expressed through U.N. resolutions in order to end the Israeli occupation; enable the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination on their national soil; implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338...; stop the building of settlements...; bring about Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem and provide the means for a just and permanent peace in the region."

The King detailed his government's programme of action in

the various internal and external fields.

He reiterated his and the government's commitment to strengthening democracy and in enacting all legislative instruments needed to push the democratic process forward "within the limits of the Constitution and the guidelines of the National Charter."

The King said that the government was committed to mending fences and restoring normal ties with Arab countries strained during the Gulf crisis.

The King then detailed the government agenda for strengthening the armed and security forces, reforming education, restructuring the economy, and rejuvenating the civil service.

The King said the two-week government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker would curb external borrowing and carry out a development programme to revive the economy.

He said the government would restrict external borrowing to soft development loans.

Jordan suspended most debt servicing, estimated at about \$1.3 billion a year, after being hit by the Gulf crisis last year. It has partly resumed payments but is seeking debt-writes, or at least rescheduling, to ease the burden.

The King said the development programme's goals included cutting the trade account deficit by boosting and diversifying exports, encouraging tourism and foreign remittances, reducing imports, increasing foreign reserves and reducing foreign debt and the budget deficit.

He said the government would attack the deficit with structural reforms to hold down spending and increase revenue, partly through targeting subsidies.

The government has estimated a 1992 deficit to JD 107 million in a JD 1.27 billion budget.

The King said that despite the Gulf crisis which ravaged the economy, gross domestic product had shown surprising resilience, rising one per cent in 1991. The trade account deficit in the ba-



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday inspects an honour guard outside Parliament House prior to opening the regular session of Parliament (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

lance of payments fell 16 per cent this year.

He promised continued government help in easing the burden on farmers.

Job creation though activating the private sector and improving economic ties with other Arab

states would be another cornerstone of economic policy, the King said.

Unemployment, aggravated by the return of thousands of Jordanians in the wake of the Gulf crisis, is estimated at about one-third of the workforce.

The King also said the government would pursue reform of the basic civil service, including decentralisation.

The palace announced last week the King's speech would serve as the new government's policy statement to be voted on

by Parliament. (see full text of King's speech on page 4)

The Parliament session was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, High-ranking government and military officials and public leaders.

## Israel 'outraged,' digs in heels against Dec. 4 talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel, voicing outrage at its longtime U.S. ally, stiffened its opposition Sunday to plans for resuming Middle East peace talks in Washington this week.

In what could be last-minute posturing ahead of a compromise over the place and date, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's top aide accused the Bush administration of leading Arabs to think the United States was on their side.

"The way this thing is being conducted by the United States very much bothers us and outrages us," said Yossi Ben Aharon, director-general of Mr. Shamir's office.

"We see that the Arab states, the Arab elements with whom we must conduct negotiations, have the impression the United States is on their side," he told Israel's army radio.

Sources at a weekly cabinet meeting quoted Mr. Shamir as saying that weekend contacts with Washington had been fruitless.

"We have made our decision and we are sticking to it," they quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

Asked if he was worried about a growing strain in relations with the United States, Mr. Ben Aharon said:

"We are dealing in very serious matters of all of us and the way this thing is being conducted today by the United States very much bothers and outrages us."

"We are very disappointed, in great pain. We are trying to right the wrong," he said.

In Washington, Israel's U.S. Ambassador Zalman Shoval met Dennis Ross, a top adviser to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, over the weekend in an effort to bridge the gap.

But Mr. Ben Aharon said on Sunday there was no change in Israel's position.

"What has to happen is for the United States to come to us with proposals in response to what we proposed," the aide told army radio.

Israel decided last week that it would be ready for the next round of peace talks on Dec. 9. The Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon accepted a U.S. invitation for Dec. 4.

Last week Mr. Ben Aharon had expressed hopes of reaching a compromise.

Arab and Israeli critics accuse Mr. Shamir of seizing on procedural issues as a stalling tactic for fear he will ultimately be forced to give up occupied Arab land as envisaged by Washington in any peace deal.

Asked whether the weekend negotiations had resolved the dispute, Mr. Ben Aharon told Israel's army radio:

"We received a report on that and nothing new came up. The Americans are bringing up all sorts of difficulties and reservations but there's nothing new."

Israel's absence at the Washington talks would likely widen a rift with the United States, its biggest aid supplier. Israel sorely needs \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to integrate a wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

It also faces the potentially embarrassing prospect that Arab delegations will show up across an empty negotiating table Wednesday under the gaze of world cameras.

Israel has for decades said it aspires to direct talks with the Arabs at any time and in any place.

Ministers emerging from the cabinet session did not rule out a last-minute compromise but accused the United States of humiliating the Jewish state.

"The United States is showing a lack of respect for Israel com-

pared to its treatment of the Arabs," Transport Minister Moshe Katzav told reporters.

Health Minister Ehud Olmert, usually a moderate in the largely hardline government, said Arab countries would question why they should talk to Israel if the U.S. government was willing to dictate stances to the Jewish state.

Israel wants only one or two meetings with the Arabs in Washington before returning to the Middle East or a nearby venue it believes would signal Israel's acceptance by the Arab World.

The Bush administration offered Washington as a compromise after the two sides failed to agree on a venue.

The Arabs refuse to negotiate in the Middle East, including Israel, before there is progress on their demand for an Israeli pull-out from Arab lands it occupied in the 1967 war.

U.S. President George Bush said Friday he planned to go ahead with talks on Dec. 4 whether or not Israel turned up.

Mr. Shamir himself said on Friday that he might consider sending a low-level advance team on that date which would avoid any embarrassment caused by Israel's absence.

"We are planning to start the talks Dec. 4. If the Israelis show up, all well and good. But we can't force them to come here if they don't want to," said one U.S. official Sunday.

Israel had asked for an assurance that the United States would publicly support its demand to transfer the talks to the Middle East after a maximum of two meetings in Washington.

But an Israeli source in Washington said the United States was unwilling to give such



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker welcomes Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to Jordan (Petra photo)

## Arafat arrives for coordination talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Amman Sunday on a brief working visit to Jordan for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials on Palestinian-Jordanian coordination in the forthcoming bilateral and regional talks between Arabs and Israel.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said he would meet with King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials and hold talks with them on inter-Arab coordination prior to the bilateral talks, which will be held in Washington, later this week.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived from Cairo, stressed the importance of coordinating Arab stands ahead of Wednesday's talks in Washington.

Answering a question on relations between the PLO and Saudi Arabia, Mr. Arafat said that King Fahd's positions and statements on the Palestine question support Palestinian rights and Arab solidarity.

Mr. Arafat reaffirmed the Arab identity of the Holy City of Jerusalem.

He voiced hope to visit Damascus to coordinate political stands between the PLO and Syria.

Upon arrival in Amman, Mr. Arafat and an accompanying delegation were met by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Subeimat, Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim, the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army and senior army officers. Mr. Arafat is accompanied by members of the PLO Executive Committee, Yasser Ahd Rabbo and Abdallah Hourani.

Resting adds from Cairo: Mr. Arafat met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the next stage of Middle East peace talks, to be held in Washington on Wednesday if Israel turns up.

The PLO leader told reporters they also discussed a planned future phase of multinational talks on regional issues.

The Washington round is due to involve Israel, Syria, Lebanon and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian

## Arabiyyat retains speakership after surprise Shreideh pullout

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Latif Arabiyyat retained his post as speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sunday by acclamation after his sole opponent Abdul Majeed Shreideh withdrew his nomination minutes before the election was to begin.

In what appeared to be a political bid, Mr. Shreideh, who headed a coalition of two influential rightwing parliamentary blocs, withdrew in favour of Dr. Arabiyyat. "The Islamists have not been included in the cabinet so let them be in Parliament," Mr. Shreideh said explaining the move.

Referring to the Muslim Brotherhood's refusal to join any

government that holds peace talks with Israel, Mr. Shreideh implied in his statement that the retention of the speakership would keep the political balance between the political forces in legislative and executive authorities.

A member of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's government said that the reelection of Dr. Arabiyyat was welcomed by the government.

The move, he said preferring to remain anonymous, "will be a stabilising factor."

"The involvement of all political factions one form of governing or another will increase cooperation between political factions and the government," he said.

Since the Muslim Brotherhood and the Democratic Bloc are both in effect the main opponents of some of the government's exter-

nal policies," it is good to have them in positions of decisionmaking so that there will be more sharing of responsibility," he added.

The Constitutional, National and independent Islamic bloc are all represented in the government. The Muslim Brotherhood and the leftwing Democratic are not.

Abdul Karim Dughni of the nine-member Democratic Bloc was appointed as first deputy to the speaker of the House after he ran uncontested for the position. Mahmoud Huweimeil was appointed as second deputy in an election that was also uncontested.

The decision to withdraw the Shreideh candidacy speakership was taken several hours before

(Continued on page 2)

## Last American hostages to be freed within a week

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Sunday it expects the last three American hostages in Lebanon to be freed within a week.

"We expect American hostage Joseph Cicippio to be freed tomorrow. We expect the rest of the American hostages to be freed by the end of next week," a senior Syrian Foreign Ministry official told Reuters.

Asked to clarify, the source said: "The end of next week means next Sunday."

Mr. Cicippio's kidnappers announced in Beirut Sunday morning that they would free him within 48 hours as part of a U.N. brokered swap of captives.

Within hours, Israel and its local militia allies released 25 Arab prisoners in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The last three American hostages in Lebanon are Mr. Cicippio, journalist Terry Anderson, and academic Alan Stein.

Two Germans are also held. Their kidnappers want the exchange to include two Lebanese in prison in Germany.

The Syrian statement followed a meeting between Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa and U.N. hostage mediator Giandomenico Picco.

Mr. Picco thanked Mr. Sharaa on behalf of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for Syria's efforts to free the hostages.

The pro-Iranian Revolutionary Justice Organisation (RJO) said the decision to free Mr. Cicippio followed mediation involving the United Nations, Iran, Syria, Israel, Lebanon and groups holding hostages in Lebanon.

"Positive results and a comprehensive solution which will achieve all parties' interests and demands to close this file for good have been reached," said an RJO statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

It was accompanied by an old photograph of a bearded and haggard-looking Cicippio.

Israel's Lebanese militia allies released 25 Arab prisoners in Lebanon. The Israeli defence ministry said the move was a personal gesture to Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

"The U.N. secretary-general requested Israel make a personal gesture towards him that would aid him in the overall processes of the mission he has initiated (to achieve a general prisoner release)," the ministry said in a statement.

Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia which patrols the "Security zone" with Israeli troops, said the release was a goodwill gesture to help the U.N. in its efforts to end the seven-year-old Middle East hostage saga.

Witnesses said the 25, including two women, were driven by two buses from the Khiam prison inside the zone.

Israeli hostage negotiator Ori Slonim said he hoped the release of the Arabs would help end the hostage-prisoners drama before Mr. Perez de Cuellar's term expires on Dec. 31.

"It is a personal gesture towards the secretary general out of a belief... it is within his power, in the 30 days left in his term, to promote a comprehensive agreement whereby all our captives


and missing will be brought back home," Mr. Slonim said.

The United Nations has been negotiating a stage-by-stage plan since August for kidnappers to free Western hostages and for Israel to release Arab prisoners in return for news of Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

Last month kidnappers freed two hostages without offering news of missing Israelis. Israel then refused to free Arab prisoners until it received word of its missing airman, Ron Arad, shot down over Lebanon in 1986.

Arad is the only missing Israeli known to have survived capture.

On Sunday, Mr. Slonim said there was no new word on missing Israelis but Mr. Perez de Cuellar and Mr. Picco had given Israel reason to expect the gesture Sunday would lead to an overall swap.



## ARAB BANK

### Jordan University for Women

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## Emirates celebrate 20 years of stability, wealth

ABU DHABI (R) — With a lot of fanfare but little conviction, seven sparsely populated and mostly impoverished Arab sheikhdoms set up a federation in 1971 to secure full independence from Britain.

Few people at the time believed they would survive. On Monday they celebrate 20 years as the United Arab Emirates, a federation of sovereign states that has weathered economic and political storms to become a stable dynamo of the Arab World.

Sleek skyscrapers tower over the affluent boulevards of the two main cities. Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the oil-battered economy is booming in contrast with post-Gulf war gloom in virtually all other Arab states.

Saudi Arabia is the UAE's only real regional competitor for the title of "boom state 1992," despite the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) that hit Abu Dhabi, wealthiest of the seven. The other members of the federation are Doha, Sharjah, Ras al Khaimah, Umm al Qaiwain, Ajman and Fujairah.

Full hotels roaring trade, a developing agriculture using the world's most modern techniques and an infrastructure almost unrivalled elsewhere, illustrate a sustained effort that allows the UAE to boast an annual per capita income of \$18,000.

The UAE on the southern shores of the Gulf has shown unusual dynamism when the going was good and resilience in tough times.

Bankers and diplomats attribute the success to two men — the off-limits and super-rich ruler of Abu Dhabi and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, and his Dubai counterpart Sheikh Rashid Ben Said Al Maktoum, a wily entrepreneur who turned Dubai into the commercial hub of the lower Gulf.

Sheikh Rashid died last year but his policies have been carried on by his sons.

Oil is the bedrock of the UAE. Its 2.4 million barrels per day production of crude oil — OPEC's third biggest after Saudi Arabia and Iran — is estimated to earn some \$15 billion in 1991. Sheikh Zayed's Abu Dhabi produces about 80 per cent of the UAE's oil. Most of the remainder comes from Dubai.

Much of the economic success

can be attributed to millions of expatriates who have worked in the emirates in the past two decades. Foreign workers and managers from the West, Asia and other Arab countries still outnumber less than 500,000 UAE nationals by at least three to one.

Like other Gulf states, the UAE had to weather the Gulf war sparked by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the UAE's partner in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

But Sheikh Zayed has also faced the collapse of BCCI, in which his family is the majority shareholder. Bankers say settlement of the BCCI affair is expected to leave the UAE president several billion dollars poorer but have no long-term effect on the country's economy.

UAE banks, hit by massive withdrawals during the Gulf crisis, have had a hard time recovering from the additional blow of the BCCI scandal.

But bankers say a building boom and continued high level of oil income has put the economy well on the road to recovery.

Abu Dhabi has been producing oil at full capacity ever since it stepped in to help fill the gap left by the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports at the start of the Gulf crisis. Dubai has always produced at full capacity.

The federal government remains strapped for cash because the poorer emirates are unable to contribute. Abu Dhabi and Dubai pay the difference, based roughly on their share of oil revenues.

But this is not a real threat to the economy because it is not centrally driven as elsewhere in the Gulf, the bankers say.

Political stability built around the Abu Dhabi-Dubai axis is remarkable in view of a history of internal strife and rivalry in the territory previously known as the Trucial States. Britain was the dominant power and arbiter until full independence.

Disputes did not disappear overnight but the leadership has always managed to smooth over any difficulties. Doubters argued when the federation was created that a tiny population and few natural resources other than oil would make it difficult to sustain.

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## Algeria opens all its oil, gas and mines to foreigners

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has opened its oilfields, gas reserves and mines to foreign companies, giving them the right to share in deposits now being exploited and to seek and exploit new reserves.

Up to now, foreigners have been barred from the oilfields, now producing 800,000 million barrels a day, and gas reserves, which make Algeria the second largest exporter after Indonesia.

Foreign firms will be allowed to go into partnership with the state company Sonatrach, which until today had a monopoly on production at existing fields. The foreigners will be allowed a maximum of 49 per cent share in any contract.

Improving the hydrocarbon law remains the decisive factor in bringing the country out of crisis by using its own means," the government said in submitting its draft to parliament.

"This law aims to relaunch investment and exploration, increase reserves and improve the extraction rate."

Parliament passed the new law, which covers rights to oil and gas exploitation, by 174 votes to 27 against, with 22 abstentions. A similar law was passed covering mineral reserves.

"We have given the government a legal means to allow it to relaunch investment and to activate the national economy," said Parliamentary Speaker Abdul Aziz Belkadem.

Algeria, hard-hit by debt repayments, hopes to attract \$14 billion from foreign companies in the next 10 years.

Officials hope foreign expertise will increase recovery from existing fields to 40 or 50 per cent from around 20 per cent.

Eighteen oil companies have said they are ready to invest in co-operation with Sonatrach, Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali said this week. Any disputes will go to international law.

Last year, Algeria exported 17.2 billion cubic metres of liquefied natural gas and 12.2 billion cubic metres of natural gas, and announced plans to boost export capacity to between 60 billion and 80 billion cubic metres a year.

The government said: "The association (with foreign firms) in existing (oil) fields will let us to extract a supplementary 200 million tonnes, equivalent to \$300 billion."

Algeria's first multi-party general election scheduled for that month was postponed. It is

due to be held on Dec. 26. Mouthpiece of the former ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), the paper also referred to a television report Friday night saying a policeman had been shot and seriously wounded the night before in the Islamic stronghold of Kouba, in Algiers.

"They are returning boldly... it is an evil that must be exterminated with rigour, firmness and efficiency," it said.

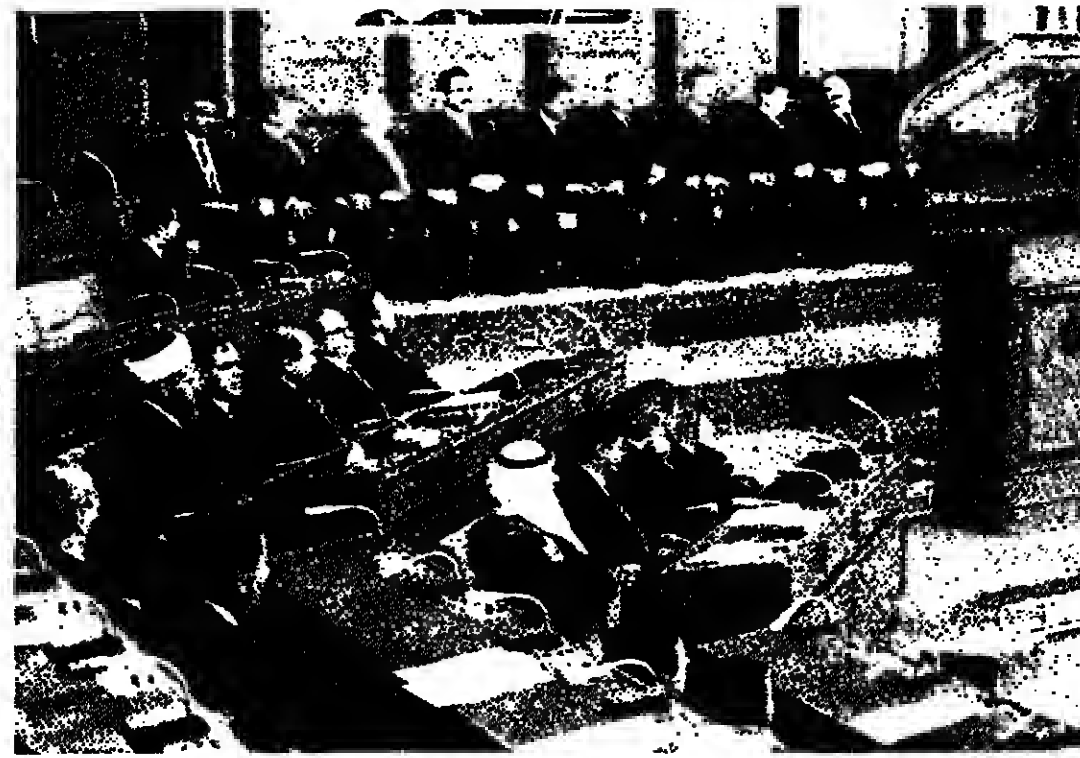
The independent Al Watan said that in the frontier attack, the assailants charged the post

shouting "Allah Akbar" and "Djihad au nom de dieu" (Holy war in God's name).

It said three of the guardsmen, two of them on national service, had their throats cut.

Le Matin, in a commentary, asked whether the aim was to prevent the elections taking place. It said the road to Guemmar, where the attack took place, was cut by troops while nearby, military helicopters overflew the area.

"The destabilisation of the country has already started," it added.



Parliamentarians and other government officials await His Majesty King Hussein at Parliament House Sunday. The King outlined his expectations of the new government and called for cooperation (Photo by Youssef Al 'Athan)

## Arabiyat retains House speakership

(Continued from page 1)

His Majesty King Hussein opened the third regular session of the 11th parliament, a member of the Constitutional Bloc told the Jordan Times.

The political alliances that have been drawn among parliamentary blocs during the last week are likely to suffer as a result of Constitutional Bloc's moves.

Parliamentary insiders said they expected that the 16-member National Bloc would be the first victim of the move. The National Bloc and Mr. Shreideh's 17-member Constitutional Bloc committed themselves Saturday to voting for Mr. Shreideh, but

the Constitutional Bloc apparently made the decision to withdraw Mr. Shreideh's nomination without consulting the National Bloc.

"Those who are interested in keeping the Brotherhood in the government fold — as an active and real opposition — will support Shreideh's move," said one unhappy deputy.

"The Brotherhood is strongest when it stands in a spot of isolated opposition, when it can complain of being 'truly oppressed', as long as the system allows them to perform its role as an opposition to the system is hunted," said one happy member of the government.

The Brotherhood have had a tacit agreement with the governing forces for the last 30 years

most important issues, such as Palestinian control of land, finance, water and security in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israelis do not want to be bound by even the limited agreements reached in the talks on such points as Palestinian control of health, education, industrial and agricultural development, and municipal affairs.

"It is not that are going to come to negotiations and say we stopped here with the Egyptians, we accept everything that was done with the Egyptians and we start from here," one Israeli official said.

The Palestinians say the talks made almost no progress on the

four days remaining.

But Israeli officials say the seemingly minor difference disguises important principles. They say they have dug in their heels to demonstrate that the United States cannot dictate every detail of the talks and that Arabs must deal with the Jewish state directly.

"I am now apprehensive that our chairs will be empty on Dec. 4," said the Israeli source.

Israel digs in heel against talks

(Continued from page 1)

an assurance. The State Department has said there was no reason why the talks should not move to the region if all sides agreed, but was unwilling to issue a stronger statement than that.

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## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Anti-nuclear protest at Israeli reactor

TEL AVIV (R) — Anti-nuclear protesters held their first demonstration outside Israel's Dimona reactor in the desert Saturday, police said. The demonstration was organised by supporters of jailed nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, a former Dimona employee. Fifty demonstrators, some from abroad, called for an end to the secrecy surrounding the site, a halt to weapons production, and the dismantling of the reactor. Israel has never admitted making or possessing nuclear arms, saying only it would not be the first nation to introduce such weaponry into the Middle East. The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies estimates the Jewish state has a stockpile of 100 nuclear warheads. Mr. Vanunu, 36, who worked for nine years as a low-ranking technician at Dimona, has been in solitary confinement for five years. He was spirited home from Europe by Israeli agents after telling London's Sunday Times that Israel had produced up to 200 atom bombs at the site. Mr. Vanunu was sentenced to 18 years in prison for aiding Israel's enemies and passing information with the goal of harming state security. He told the court the information he had provided was "nothing new." Demonstrators told Israel Radio Mr. Vanunu should be released "because he committed himself to serving the public's right to know."

### Red Cross workers try to reach wounded Somalis

NAIROBI (R) — Red Cross workers in Mogadishu are trying to reach hundreds of civilians wounded in factional fighting in the Somali capital, aid workers said no radio messages received here Sunday. Two Red Cross officials were in the northern part of the city, which is held by supporters of interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, at the weekend. The wounded there are unable to reach even the limited medical facilities operating in other areas of Mogadishu, which are controlled by General Mohammed Farah Aided. Gen. Aided, chairman of Mr. Ali Mahdi's United Somali Congress (USC), is trying to oust the interim president. Fighting continued Sunday, with heavy shelling across the line dividing the two factions, despite a Red Cross appeal on Friday for the warring sides to spare the lives of civilians. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called the fighting a human disaster of the worst magnitude. A spokesman said Sunday the ICRC was trying to arrange for a surgical team to move into northern areas of Mogadishu to treat some of the wounded there. The USC took over the capital when former President Mohammed Siad Barre fled in January after repeated rebel attacks on the city. The USC and other anti-Siad Barre groups chose Mr. Ali Mahdi as interim president at a peace meeting held in Djibouti in July, but Gen. Aided says that meeting had no mandate to select a government for the country.

### Ethiopia urges Djibouti to avert bloodshed

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Ethiopia has asked the Red Sea republic of Djibouti to take immediate measures to avert the threat of "extensive bloodshed" which could affect other countries in the region, the Ethiopian news agency reported. Fighting has been taking place for the last two weeks in northern areas of Djibouti, near the Ethiopian border, where Djibouti says rebel guerrillas have attacked military bases. The rebels may include former Ethiopian troops who fled into Burundi when dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown in May, the news agency said. It added: "The rebel activity and its location are such that it is likely to affect the residents on the Ethiopian side of the border — exacerbating traditional misunderstandings between the Afars and Issas." The Afar and Issa tribal groups live in both countries. The French government, which maintains a military detachment in Djibouti, announced last week that its troops would patrol the border area, but would not intervene in what France sees as an internal dispute.

### King Fahd gets message from Kuwaiti emir

NICOSIA (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia received a message Saturday from Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah about next month's summit of six Gulf Arab states. The Saudi Press Agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the emir's envoy Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber delivered the message. It gave no details of content. The Kuwaiti News Agency said earlier the envoy would tour member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council carrying similar messages to their leaders. Foreign ministers of the political and economic alliance, which also includes Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, met in Kuwait last week to prepare an agenda for the summit, due to be held in Kuwait in Dec. 23.

### Libyan leader frees Italian pilot

NICOSIA (R) — Libya has released an Italian pilot detained last month after landing his "ultra-light" aircraft there on a flight from Sicily to Egypt, Libya's news agency JANA said Saturday. JANA said Angelo D'Arrigo, detained on Oct. 22 for illegal entry, was ordered freed by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi as a "humanitarian response" to a letter sent by his family. The agency said technical problems forced Mr. D'Arrigo to land in Libya while trying to set a continuous flight record from his Sicilian city of Catania to Egypt. Mr. D'Arrigo, who returned home last Tuesday, was quoted by Italian news media as saying the flight was not interrupted by mechanical difficulties, but he did not explain why he made an unscheduled landing in Libya.

### Algerian policeman found shot dead

ALGIERS (R) — The decomposing body of an Algerian policeman, killed by a bullet through the head, was found in the western town of Merad, Algiers radio said Sunday. It did not say when the body was found but said the man had been reported missing for some time. Merad is near the coastal town of Tipaza, some 70 kilometres from Algiers. A band of 60 armed men attacked and killed three border guards near the Tunisian frontier on Friday. A policeman was shot and wounded in an Algiers suburb the previous day.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
18:00	Debut de l'émission
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Hey Dad
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Gabriel's Fire
PRAYER TIMES	
06:53	Fajr
08:13	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:25	Dhuhr
14:12	Asr
16:36	Maghrib
17:57	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swisslith Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	

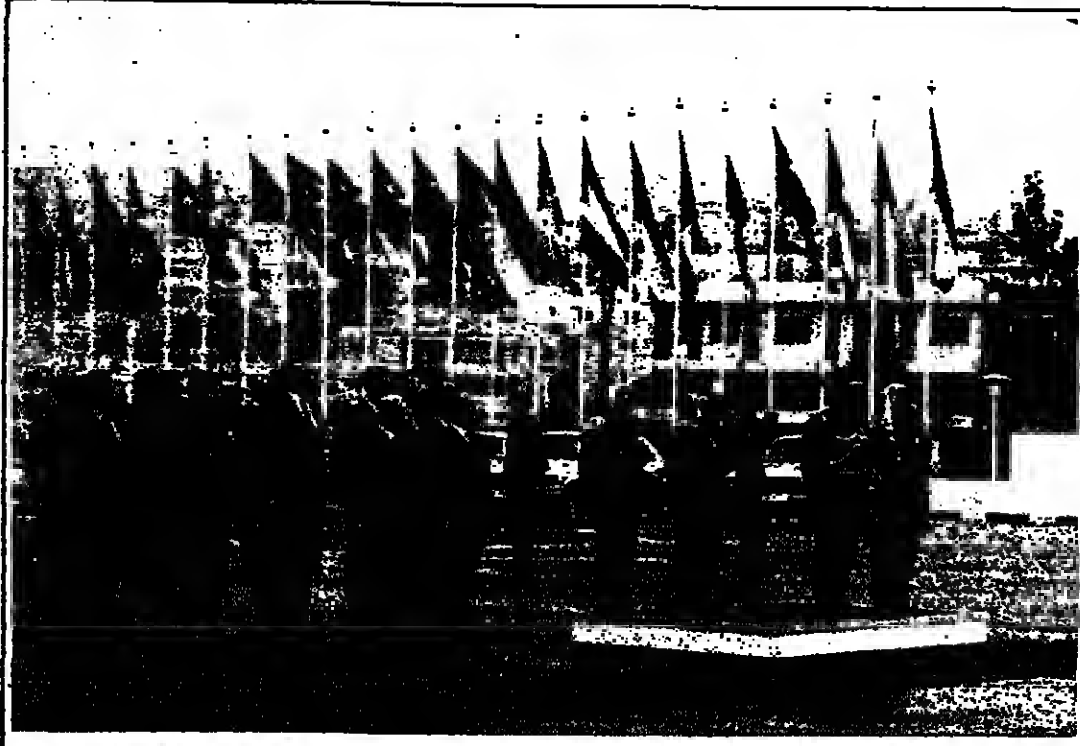
Terrace Church Tel. 622366	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625441
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625443	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian Interdenominational Church Tel. 683336	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824, 659332	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will remain cold, cloudy and rainy at times and winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for showers and winds will be northerly fresh and seas choppy.	
Min./Max. temp. 6/11	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal Issa	691011
Dr. Mohammad Sawra	732056
Dr. Abdul Qader Lala	696048
Dr. Basim Qadomani	646024
First pharmacy	661912
Fardous pharmacy	778336
Al Azma pharmacy	637055
Nasrallah pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636230
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeizani pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad Khalil	(—)
Al Shams pharmacy	273825

EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 61111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	661101
Repairs	623101
Abdul Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111

HOSPITALS	
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	664166
RJ Flight Information	06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
AMMAN:	
Hussain Medical Centre	51381/322
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann.	642816
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann.	642412
Jahel Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeizani	6601714
Shmeizani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musah Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajirin	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh	77511126
Army, Marfa	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	06224030
Amal Hospital	674





His Majesty King Hussein Sunday prepares to review an honour guard before addressing Parliament (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Upper House of Parliament official calls for cooperation with new government

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament Sunday held an ordinary session under the chairmanship of the Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

The House listened to the Parliament's secretary general read the Royal decree postponing the Parliament's ordinary session until Dec. 1 and the Royal decree reappointing Mr. Lawzi as speaker of the Upper House.

Mr. Lawzi congratulated the House members on the opening of the ordinary session and noted that the contents of the speech from the throne constituted the basis for their work. He stressed the importance of cooperation in carrying out the responsibilities



Ahmad Al Lawzi

entrusted with the government.

He also welcomed the appointment of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, and pledged support for him and his government to enable them carry out the tasks ahead of them.

The House then approved a suggestion made by the member Said Tal to form a special committee to draft the reply to the speech from throne. The committee included Ahmad Obeidat, Dr. Khalil Al Salem, Akram Zwaiter, Mohammad Rasoul Al Kilani, Kamel Sharif and Junnaa Hammad.

They newly formed committee will convene today under the chairmanship of Mr. Lawzi.

## Queen Noor awarded 'Woman for Peace' award

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has been presented the "Woman for Peace" award by the Together for Peace Foundation in Madrid in recognition of her dedicated efforts to create better opportunities for women and to improve the quality of life of children and their families; for her commitment to promote cross-cultural exchanges and international understanding and for her active involvement in global environmental and humanitarian issues.

The Men and Women for Peace awards are presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in pursuit of the principles of peace, international cooperation and respect for human rights, according to a statement from the foundation.

Previous recipients of this award include Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Prince of Wales, Barbara Bush and former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The award was presented to Her Majesty by Mariapia Fanfani, president of the Together for Peace Foundation, last Friday.

In an address at the ceremony, special U.N. envoy to Iraq Prince Sadreddin Aga Khan expressed deep appreciation to His Majesty

King Hussein for his efforts in helping to secure the release of British businessman Ian Richter, who was serving a jail sentence in Iraq.

At the same ceremony, the "Enrique de la Mata International Prize for Peace" was conferred upon Princess Irene of Greece, the "Together for Peace Foundation Highest Acknowledgement" award was conferred upon Senator Giovanni Agnelli of Italy, and the Man and Woman for Peace awards are conferred also upon Prime Minister of Spain Felipe Gonzalez, Bernadette Chirac of France and Maria de Jesus Soares of Portugal.

The Together for Peace Foundation, an international institution, was established in February 1988 to promote and affirm the ideals of peace and solidarity throughout the world. It provided relief aid to Jordan for the refugees during the Gulf crisis, according to the statement.

Queen Sofia hosted a dinner for Queen Noor at Zarzuela Palace which was attended by members of the Spanish Royal Family.

Accompanying Queen Noor to the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Princess Ghida Talal, Senator Leila Sharaf and the Jordanian ambassador to Spain, Shaker Bak and Mrs. Bak.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, seated next to Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain and Mariapia Fanfani, president of the Together for Peace Foundation, was given a 'Woman for Peace' award in recognition of her efforts

## Rain exceeds cumulative yearly amount in some areas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Meteorology Department expects more rain in Jordan Monday but on a smaller scale than the past two days.

A statement said that the rain was the result of a depression centred around Cyprus. The rain fell in most regions of the country.

Department Deputy Director Rafiq Shaker said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the average rainwater in such areas as Amman, Salt, Madaba, Deir Alallu, North Shmeh, Baqoura, Ajloun, Madraq and Karak has exceeded the cumulative amount of rain which normally falls this time of the year.

He said in other areas, like Wadi Duleil, Azraq, Ramtha and Irbid, the rain was equal to the

normal cumulative amounts, unlike the semi-desert regions of Ruwashed, Ghor Safi, Tafleeh, Shobak and Zarqa, which received less rain than the normal cumulative amounts.

According to Mr. Shaker, the largest amount of rain that fell in Jordan was in Ajloun and Salt, and the least amount fell in Aqaba.

Meanwhile, heads of agricultural departments in Karak and Irbid said that the rain that fell this week will have a beneficial effect on land sown with cereals as well as fruit trees and pasture lands.

The Water Authority and the Jordan Valley Authority have not yet assessed the amounts of water that collected in dams as a result of the rain of the past two days.

## Austrian trade delegation, Jordanian officials holding talks on increasing cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Austrian trade mission headed by Peter Rattinger, director of the Middle East Department of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, has arrived in Amman for trade consultations.

The delegation consists of representatives of 19 Austrian companies who will meet Jordanian institutions and businessmen to discuss possible cooperation, according to a press release. Meetings were held Sunday and will continue today at the Regency Palace Hotel.

The list of offered products includes among others industrial equipment required for sack manufacturing and meat processing lines, raw materials and additives for the food, paint and furniture industries as well as household and industrial detergents. A wide range of cables, overhead lines, conductors and other electrical equipment made in Austria will be of interest to local electricity authorities as well as ductile pipes for the Water Authority.

The trade mission reflects the current high demand for construction materials since Austrian manufacturers of timber and indoor decoration materials are represented. Austrian medical supplies and pharmaceuticals shown at the trade mission should be well received in the Jordanian

market, according to the release. Austria, a supplier of quality equipment and materials, could contribute substantially to Jordan's development, the statement said. Among others the Arab Potash Co. was erected by a leading Austrian industrial enterprise, a large fleet of Austrian made trucks are continuously running on Jordan roads and Royal Jordanian uses hanger facilities designed and erected by Austrian engineers. The TV-centre in Amman was planned and built by a consortium of highly specialised Austrian companies. Recently, an Austrian built conveyor equipment was handed over at the new phosphate mine in Shidiya, the statement said.

Due to the Gulf crisis, 1990 Austria exports to Jordan amounted to Austrian Schilling 214 million (about U.S. \$20 million) only, according to the statement. Based on the increase of industrial activities currently taking place in Jordan, a turnaround is taking place and exports are increasing again. Additional Austrian exports can be expected under the Austrian Commodity Aid Programme — a grant in the amount of Austrian Schilling 100 million (U.S. \$8.5 million) was released this year by Austria to Jordan.

The speakers of Parliament urged Mr. Cheysson and his party to help bring about peace and Minister of Finance Basel Jarad requested Europe to extend assistance to the Kingdom to enable it to cope with the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

## Ministers to discuss creation of pan-Arab fund

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meetings of the Arab Ministers of Social Development due to open in Cairo Tuesday.

The ministers will discuss the creation of a pan-Arab fund to finance social work in the Arab World and means of backing social projects, including those carried out by concerned Arab institutions.

Also on the agenda is a pan-Arab project to promote the status of Arab children, the charter of the rights of the Arab Child and the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Jordan will be represented at the meeting by Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh, who will deliver an address dealing with coordination among Arab states in social work in order to ensure security as well as on conditions in Jordan in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the return to the Kingdom by 300,000 expatriates from the Gulf states.

The speech will outline the various educational, housing, water and other basic services to be offered to the expatriates and the problem of unemployment in the country.

The minister is accompanied by two senior ministry officials to the meeting, which will last three days.

## German team on visit to determine level of aid to be provided to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-member German economic team led by Winfried Fochs Sunday opened talks with Jordanian officials aimed at determining the extent of technical and capital assistance to be given to Jordan in the next two years.

The two sides first reviewed Jordanian projects financed through German aid, and then made a review of various needs of the government ministries and institutions, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Jordan's general economic situation and its need of financial assistance to overcome current difficulties resulting from the Gulf crisis and other developments in the region were reviewed at the meeting, which was co-chaired by Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz and Mr. Fochs, who is head of the Middle East and North Africa Desk at the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation.

According to Petra, the two sides signed a protocol providing for the allocation technical and capital aid to the Kingdom and the projects on which the aid will be spent.

Germany was the first country to provide assistance to the Kingdom in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

In 1990 and 1991, Germany made considerable efforts and provided cash and in-kind assistance to help Jordan cope with the effects of the Gulf crisis on the national economy.

In addition to the regular technical and financial cooperation, 180 million DM in 1990 and 150 million DM in 1991 were granted to Jordan in commodity aid.

As regular aid, Germany has been providing millions worth of assistance in technical assistance to boost the Kingdom's agricultural sector.

The five member team's three day visit to Jordan comes five months after another German team's visit to Amman to follow up with the Ministry of Planning matters related to technical aid for the various projects being carried out in Jordan.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Allocations for the Ministry of Youth in the 1992 fiscal budget amounted to JD 4 million, registering a 100 per cent increase over that of 1991, according to a ministry official.

He said that JD 2 million has been allocated for capital expenditures to finance sports complexes, youth camps and clubs,

and youth hostels and sports facilities.

The other JD 2 million will cover the ministry's current expenses and to benefit sports clubs and unions, the Jordan Olympic Committee, scouts and girl guides societies. It will also cover Jordan's participation in the Barcelona Olympiad.

## Officials stress importance of pastoral communities to Jordan's development

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants in a five-day workshop, which began Sunday, will assess problems, changes and major issues of concern for the development of pastoral populations in the Near East region.

The workshop, entitled "Pastoral Communities in the Near East: Traditional Systems in Evolution," aims at looking at pastoral development, changes of pastoral organisations and how people can participate in the implementation of policies and building up of institutions, according to a member of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Addressing the opening session, the secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development said that Jordan has been giving increasing attention to the development of pastoral societies to improve the state of pasture lands and attain better fodder.

Abdul Rahim Salam told the audience that by following this policy, successive Jordanian governments succeeded in settling shepherds and bedouin tribes for which it also provided social services like health and education.

Mr. Salam emphasised the need for upgraded policies to help promote pastures and medical service projects. Such policies, he said, should deal with such questions as drought and improving the standard of living of pastoral communities.

"We are taking our aspirations from the traditional systems of pastoral management known as hemma," said the FAO representative.

Hemma is a traditional range management system practiced in the Mashreq region which is based on regulations to preserve arid land, according to James Riddell, Senior Officer of Land Tenure and Settlement at FAO.

In a region where more than 60 per cent of the area is arid or semi-arid, the future relies on how well land is used, he said. This is the key component in regional, national as well as local rural development, he said.

According to Firas Gharabeh, from the United Nations Development Project (UNDP), "The traditional rangeland management systems and the increase of the pastoral communities population put a strain on their income generation, and distributed their way of living."

The study of pastoral communities and grazing practices as well as social economic trends and assessment of their problems, is of vital importance in order to formulate policies and programmes to help them preserve their way of living, he said at the workshop.

"It is the only possible solution," Mr. Riddell said, "because the government cannot afford such practices with its competing demand."

Involving the people will require the investment of energy and the concern of the local population, "but development cannot take place unless we play our role responsibly," he said.

There also needs to be careful examination of other traditional institutions that can be made part of the modern democratic development process for livestock management, Mr. Riddell added.

Pastoral communities at one point constituted the main block of societies in all countries of this region, Mr. Gharabeh said. The social and economic development in the region during the past two decades forced — substantial changes on these communities, he said.

Currently, "in terms of administrative time, (pastoral community management) is time consuming and expensive because the focus is on range monitoring and range management. This leads to an accumulative effect," Mr. Riddell told the Jordan Times. "With the traditional method, however, it would free the existing technical staff to target its energies in specific needs — such as livestock population that are amenable to scientific knowledge, such as feedstock and animal health among others."

Participants at the workshop, which represent researchers and policy makers from Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Oman and Yemen, are exchanging experiences and ideas.

"We hope to obtain a specific list of future collaborations and we hope to remind people that with the environmental constraints and opportunities in the region, we have to take the pastoral population seriously. Whether the situation becomes better or worse depends on our interactions," Mr. Riddell said.

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There also needs to be careful

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### King congratulates emirates

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday sent a cable to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, congratulating him on his country's national day. The King wished Sheikh Zayed continued good health and happiness and the people of the emirates further progress and prosperity.

### Bank grants 10 loans for projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has agreed to grant 10 loans worth JD1,560,000 to finance industrial, tourist and medical service projects. The amount included JD1.12 million which will be used for financing industrial projects and plants to produce metal parts, drip irrigation pipes, and vegetable oil. The bank has granted 95 loans, worth JD14,887,000 since the beginning of this year.

### Art exhibition opens

MUTA, Karak (Petra) — An art exhibition by

Jordanian artists Umm Kulthoum Al Su'ouh and Aisha Al Su'ouh was opened Sunday at Muta University, near Karak. The exhibition, which was opened by University Vice-President for Academic Affairs Abdul Rahman Al Atiyat, includes paintings depicting natural scenes and archaeological and touristic sites as well as ceramics, knit-wear and artificial flowers. The four-day exhibition also includes a section which displays folkloric items.

### CAA delegation leaves for Sri Lanka

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Mahmoud Jamal Balaz left Amman Sunday at the head of a CAA delegation on a several day official visit to Sri Lanka for talks with air transport officials there on scopes of cooperation in the air transport field. The Jordanian delegation will also discuss issues pertaining to the air transport agreement already concluded between both countries. The delegation comprises Bassam Salaitah, director of Air Transport and Hani Bqain, the assistant to the deputy director general for International Relations.

## European Parliament team concludes visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team representing the Socialist group at the European Parliament led by Claude Cheysson left Amman Sunday following a three-day visit for talks on Middle East issue and Euro-Arab ties.

The group was received by His Majesty King Hussein, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Hessa and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Mr. Cheysson and his group also held talks with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and a number of cabinet members. Discussions covered Europe's

role in giving momentum to the peace process and ensuring Israel's compliance with applicable U.N. resolutions.

Addressing a press conference Saturday, Mr. Cheysson urged Israel to end the state of war with its Arab neighbours and stressed the need for Palestinians to obtain their legitimate rights. The speakers of Parliament urged Mr. Cheysson and his party to help bring about peace and Minister of Finance Basel Jarad requested Europe to extend assistance to the Kingdom to enable it to cope with the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

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### Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

## Hattab case — where do we draw the line?

THE case of writer Sultan Al Hattab who was banned by the Jordan Press Association from writing in Jordan because he appeared on Israeli television deserves a more extensive airing out in order to gauge more accurately public opinion on the entire episode.

There were only a handful of articles on the subject which failed to address and resolve the issue in a coherent manner. The natural thing to do in such a dispute is to refer it to the supreme court of the land for a thorough legal examination with a view to arriving at a ruling that would serve as precedent for similar litigations in the future. One wonders, in this vein, if there are in fact Jordanian legislations on such subjects. Even more interesting would be to know whether such laws or regulations are in conformity with the Constitution of the country or with the international treaties that Jordan had signed and ratified. On top of the list of international pacts that bind Jordan on such matters is of course the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

From a purely policy point of view, one would be at pains trying to reconcile the punitive action against Mr. Hattab with the national decision to sue for peace with Israel. What is ironical and paradoxical in this case is that some Jordanian commentators make a distinction between official contacts with Israel, which the

ongoing peace process would necessarily entail, and private or non-official contacts with that country which they maintain, is still premature. Yet, the decision to join the peace process regarding the Arab-Israeli conflicts was taken by the entire country, people and government. It is one thing to shun the diplomatic parleys on peace in the Middle East and quite another to accept them superficially or artificially or half-heartedly.

Jordan and Jordanians need to make a choice between seeking peace at the negotiating table or looking for another course to settle their conflicts with Israel. But once a decision is taken to pursue the negotiating path for reversing the Israeli occupation and annexation of Arab territories, it would be utterly dishonest to draw a fine line between official and non-official contacts with the enemy. The criteria in judging such relations, be they private or official, should be whether such actions constitute treason. Any contact that may benefit the Arab causes in general and the Jordanian interest in particular should not be frowned at or condemned in an arbitrary manner.

At a time when Palestinians of all walks of life are now free to engage their occupiers in different settings and for without the gruelling inhibitions and complexes of past era, Jordanian writers must be afforded equal opportunities to engage the other side on

television or elsewhere. The only provision should be that such interrelations promote the national interest. Needless to add, interrelations with the Israelis, whether directly or indirectly through the mass media, stand to facilitate the official negotiations between the two sides. We all know that public opinion in Israel has a tremendous impact on the official negotiating position of their representatives to the peace talks.

If Mr. Hattab and other writers can enlighten even a little bit the Israeli audiences, they need to be commended for that rather than be condemned. This is not to suggest that we should go overboard with such relaxed contacts. No one is proposing for example that cultural or economic relations with Israel should be promoted at this premature stage. And no one is thinking in terms of allowing Arab tourism to Israel or accepting the same from that country. All that one may condone and even advocate at this early stage is that Arab positions be articulated and disseminated to the other side by our professionals from the non-official sectors in order to lend support to our official spokesman at the negotiating table. Gradually, the level of contacts need to be expanded as more and more progress is registered at the peace talks. For the time being, there is no justification for paralyzing or suffocating complexes against all forms of non-official relations.

## Challenge before us

HIS Majesty King Hussein's speech from the throne at the opening of the third regular session of Parliament Sunday touched on many important points and issues affecting the future course of the Kingdom. This is not surprising as the speech will also serve as Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker government's programme of action on the basis of which it would seek Parliament's confidence. The King's speech struck a special note in its reference to the consolidation of the democratic process in the Kingdom, by calling for speedy legislations to translate the principles are enshrined in the National Charter into laws and practices as a matter of highest priority. In this context, the projected laws on the formation of political parties which should serve as basis for pluralistic democracy and legislations to govern freedom of press and publications are in the forefront of the new legal guidelines that the third session of Parliament is called upon to enact. The King was also emphatic in saying that as much as written laws on the practice of democracy in the country are important and pressing, the unwritten laws on democratic behaviour and political style of life are even more relevant. There is a limit to what can be legislated with a view to further advance the cause of democracy. The culture for democracy that the country needs to nurture and inculcate into the minds and hearts of Jordanians cannot depend solely on the enactment of written rules and regulations but must emanate from the conscience and ordinary lives of citizens. Tolerance for views of others and erasing all protestations of monopoly on right must be, as the King cautioned, the principal features of the new and progressive democratisation process.

The ongoing peace process in the Middle East was equally highlighted by His Majesty's speech from the throne. His Majesty's reiteration of the country's commitment to the cause of peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy came in the strongest possible words. Waging peace, the King said, requires as much courage and conviction as waging war to defend the country's territorial integrity. Here the King again struck the right note in favour of giving peace in the region its due chance.

Inter-Arab relations and ways and means to restore them not only to normalcy but also to elevate them to new heights also characterised the royal address. In this vein, King Hussein treated Jordanian-Saudi relations on the highest level as a matter of high urgency and held high hopes that the decades-long relations of fraternity between Riyadh and Amman could be restored soon. For this purpose, King Hussein voiced renewed confidence in the Arab League as a valuable instrument to strengthen Arab relations on all fronts.

Last but not the least, the King called for a stronger role for the private sector to rejuvenate the Jordanian economy in a bid to overcome the existing economic hardships, especially unemployment and poverty. Jordanians who are most hit by the current economic woes would attach the greatest importance to this aspect of the King's presentation to Parliament.

In all, the King's speech presents a formidable challenge to the government of Sharif Zeid. It also poses an equal challenge to Parliament. As the King called for harmonious relations between the executive and legislative branches of government, the two sides have ample opportunities to translate the contents of the speech into realities.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Sunday reiterated the basic principles of Jordanian policy as reaffirmed by His Majesty King Hussein in his latest television interview and said they are based on Jordan's commitment to pan-Arab causes, peace and democracy. The paper said the King has expressed his readiness to make personal efforts for the sake of mending fences with other Arab states as Jordan believes that only through concerted Arab efforts can the Arabs achieve their aspirations and regain their rights in Palestine. As Jordan is oriented towards a Middle East peace and seeks justice, it feels it cannot fulfill this objective without true coordination with the Arab countries, particularly those directly involved in the conflict with Israel, the paper noted. It said that the King has made it clear that Jordan is totally committed to peace and will seek the restoration of the usurped rights and lands in fulfilment of the requirements of the international legitimacy and in implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. For Jordan, democracy is also a vital element for national interests because it embodies the aspirations of the people and their desires, which are being sought through their representatives in Parliament, the paper noted. It said Jordan's commitment to these three principles means a commitment to helping the establishment of stability in the Middle East region. Therefore, such endeavour requires the support and backing of all people with goodwill and who are concerned over the future of their country.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday accused the United States of trying to counter the emerging power of united Europe and the influence of Japan by attempting to ensure its hold over Arab oil resources. Tareq Masarweh said that Washington is now directing its attention towards Libya, accusing it of being responsible for the crash of an American plane over Scotland three years ago prior to launching an aggression that would pave the way for total American hegemony over Libya's oil. The writer said that should mediation efforts succeed to avert such aggression, the Americans would make sure that they reach a settlement that would guarantee Libya's submission to Washington's will. After Libya, it will be Algeria's turn since that country possesses vast oil reserves and has been trying to install nuclear reactors, the writer continued. He said following Libya and Algeria, America's attention would be directed towards Syria, especially if that country declares new oil finds to justify Washington's greed. He said that the current embargo on Iraq was to ensure America's oil interests in the Gulf region and such a policy will be applied to all other areas to ensure U.S. domination and hegemony.

## King addresses 3rd ordinary session of the 11th Parliament

### Democracy entails responsible behaviour; Jordan is committed to pursuing peace; political pluralism, responsible civil liberties will be safeguarded; Constitution, National Charter will ensure the unity of the people regardless of their status and creeds

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

In the name of the Almighty, I open this third ordinary session of the eleventh Parliament. I thank God for blessing our efforts with success as we rise to the task of defending this country, promoting its welfare and establishing the foundations of enlightened democracy, political pluralism and responsible civil liberties. These are firmly rooted in the letter and the spirit of the Constitution and in the National Charter as a framework and expression of living, working and endeavouring to serve the country and ensure the unity of our people regardless of their status and creeds. They will lead to a secure and prosperous future, where aspirations will flourish and where all citizens will shoulder their responsibilities and work towards building a model society, united and forward-looking in its search for security, prosperity and steadfastness.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

My government assumes its responsibilities at a critical moment of which you are fully aware. I have wished it to carry out its mandate in a climate of freedom, compassion and integrity in full compliance with the Constitution, the National Charter and the supremacy of the law. It will seek to achieve the national goals required by the imperative of comprehensive reforms in all walks of life on a sound scientific basis. To implement this objective, my government will cooperate with your esteemed assembly to enact speedy legislation arising from the abolition of martial law and the need to regulate political pluralism, freedom of expression, of speech and the press, as well as other legislation submitted to your assembly. Completion of this agenda will stand as a token of maturity and awareness. It will enable us to meet future challenges with a united national will which carries the hallmarks of the new age based on liberty, knowledge, democracy, human rights, defence of the nation's accomplishments and recognition of the achievements of our forebears.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

As it embarked on plans to counter the economic, social and educational effects of the Gulf crisis on Jordanian life, in addition to other ramifications of which you are aware, my government was faced with fresh development at the international and regional levels. Foremost among these was the international political drive toward the convening of a peace conference.

For us, the issue of peace has been a commitment confirmed on all occasions and in all platforms. It has been a constant component of Jordan's policy for decades which has been based on unwavering principles consistent with international legitimacy as represented by United Nations resolutions, aiming at a just and honourable peace which would guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Therefore, my government has responded positively to the invitation to participate in the peace conference. It has done so out of concern to defend our nation, to shoulder our responsibility toward our people and future generations, and to contribute to efforts which, by virtue of their recourse to right and justice, would inevitably lead to the benefit of the Palestinian people. Our unflinching support and assistance to our Palestinian brethren, then as now, aims at enabling them to regain their sovereignty and rights over their national soil.

In agreeing to participate in the peace conference, we have moved in the direction of peace. We are confident of our people's ability to stand up to the challenges of the search for an honourable peace. It is a challenge which requires great courage, a clarity of vision and a steadfast adherence to firm principles.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

I am sure you realise that democracy entails responsible behaviour and reflects a decent way of life. Those who commit to democracy automatically take upon themselves the task of strengthening its foundation, defending their country, upholding recognised values and preserving the authority of the state and its various institutions. Democracy does not confer on any single group a claim of monopoly over wisdom or truth. Nor does it provide a licence to justify encroachment on the rights and liberties of the vast majority of the people, or question the role of the national security bodies entrusted with protecting the interest of the state and the people. Such conduct can only be construed as undermining the national security and that of the citizens.

With great pride and high esteem, my government recognises the role of our armed forces in defending the country and protecting its security and independence. It appreciates the enormity of the burden they shoulder under difficult conditions. They do so out of respect for the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and firm commitment to pan-Arab ideals. My government, therefore, will accord the armed forces, so dear to us all, every attention with regard to their training, armament, development and professionalism. It will ensure that they remain a stronghold of national and public security, providing the means

for stability, prosperity and progress as well as for the defence of our land and freedom, standing as we are in the vanguard of the Arab World.

In highlighting these elements, my government wishes to emphasise that Jordan's security apparatus will remain the focus of its confidence, regard and concern. Security personnel will always be gallant soldiers in their country's defence, in their vigilance, sacrifice, deep sense of responsibility and self-abnegation, as they shoulder their sacred responsibility of protecting the country and its citizens from all danger.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

Deeply aware of its pan-Arab duty and historical commitment to our nation's destiny and causes, with the Palestinian issue at the top of the agenda, my government will endeavour to reinforce this commitment on the basis of firm and unchanging principles in dealing with the Palestinian cause and our Palestinian brethren. This will be done in conformity with the principles of international legitimacy expressed through United Nations resolutions in order to: End the Israeli occupation; enable the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination on their national soil; implement Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 stipulating the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and confirming the principle of the exchange of land for peace; stop the building of settlements and terminate settlement activities; bring about Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem; and, provide the means for a just and permanent peace in the region.

Within this framework, my government will continue to coordinate with our Palestinian brethren in such a manner as would lead to the desired effect, particularly with regard to the formula of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the deep-rooted principles on which our dealings with the peace conference are based.

As a founding member of the League of Arab States, my government is anxious that the league's role in achieving Arab solidarity should continue. It will therefore endeavour in every way possible to restore Arab solidarity in the wake of the Gulf crisis, with the objective of strengthening the ties of brotherhood, shared destiny and common interests among the league's member states. It will continue to exert its best efforts towards that end on account of its deep faith in Arab unity and its fervent desire to ensure the well-being of future generations.

My government will also press on with the strengthening of cooperation and friendship with sister Muslim countries and their peoples as well as with other friendly countries on the basis of mutual respect, common interests and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. With a view to realising these objectives, my government will further work to enhance Jordan's role and its participation in regional, Islamic and international organisations.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

In the fields of education, culture, guidance and youth, my government will persist in implementing plans that would make of the nineties a decade of comprehensive educational reform, entailing the improvement and development of the educational process and an equitable distribution of qualified personnel over the various regions of the Kingdom. In similar vein, it will continue its concerted efforts to bring about general cultural development and provide a climate of freedom for creative and intellectual pursuits. It will enhance youthful participation in the process of development on a basis suitable to the current phase, enabling the youth to make a creative contribution to the national effort and encouraging active debate on the history of Jordan, its development and national pride.

The Ministry of Education is currently implementing a master plan aimed at introducing an integrated programme of civic education and military studies. It is conducting a radical re-assessment of curricula and textbooks in the various cycles of education, in addition to drawing up plans for teacher training and applied education, a reconsideration of the nature of school texts and examinations, and an upgrading of educational administration and personnel. This will be done in line with the modern trend of moving away from rote learning in favour of induction and creativity.

Standing at the threshold of significant social and scientific changes, marked by expansion in higher education, we must reaffirm the principle of academic freedom at our universities in order to strengthen their role in the process of change and development. As seats of thought and learning employing the scientific method to arrive at objective truths through recourse to the sources of knowledge as well as to be an informed debate on national issues, the universities are well equipped to meet the challenge of modern science and technology. They must become a springboard for progress founded on principles of freedom, democracy and justice to which we have committed ourselves, and exercised in a climate of creative action aiming at development and innovation.

The change must be profound. It calls for very high standards. It must stand up to bigotry, avoid rote learning and superficiality and must be preceded by a thorough review aimed at reforming

and improving education at all levels. These would include legislation, the relationship between education and national development and a deep commitment to the provisions of the National Charter, which envisaged a range of measures enabling Jordan to acquire the technology needed for resource enhancement within a scientific framework based on a modern educational system and a dynamic cultural milieu imbued with concepts of liberty, unity and a better life.

Preaching and guidance are, closely associated with maintaining national unity, enhancing the forces of amity and solidarity, and promoting the general good in a climate that does not allow for bigotry, intolerance or introversion. This being the case, we would emphasise that the principal role of mosques and other places of worship is to educate people in matters of religion, urge them towards virtue, integrity, respect for public order and a firm rejection of division or disarray among the citizens.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

Efforts must continue to modernise legislation and build institutional capacity to meet the needs of citizens and interact with development plans in a new spirit. This requires a new scope for administrative reform based on objective criteria and modern concepts of public office, including those related to follow-up, training, evaluation, supervision, legislation and incentives. These efforts must aim at overcoming individual and social impediments to reform. Decentralisation must be pursued as a major objective through a more energetic role for district officers in the various governorates and other administrative units. Progress must be made towards providing authority and means to achieve the objective of enabling citizens to find answers to their problems in their own areas of residence, thus freeing central administrative units for the tasks of planning, follow-up and supervision.

Members of the Upper House,  
Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

Jordan has suffered more than any other country from the Gulf crisis. Perhaps the most salient feature of Jordan's suffering in this regard has been the continued impact of the crisis to this day, marked by great demographic pressures brought about by the return of about 300,000 of our citizens from the Gulf, particularly Kuwait.

We have interacted with these demographic pressures from a standpoint of a realistic and scientific analysis of the nature and magnitude of the problem. The returnees constitute a large and sudden increase of about ten per cent of Jordan's resident population. This has called for an increased parallel demand on social and economic services as well as infrastructure. On the other hand, the returnees represent a wealth of experience and skills acquired over long years of persistent effort in building up the societies and economies of sister states. While abroad, our returning citizens had the opportunity of working with the most advanced means of production. With their varied experience and strong skills, they will no doubt enrich our society and contribute to its economic growth.

In dealing with the question of the returnees, we have pursued a two-pronged approach. The first was to do our utmost to expand public services, particularly those connected with education and health. The other was to release the energies of the returnees to enable them to make a meaningful contribution to the productive base and to put their experience, skills and savings to good use in the various sectors of the economy.

My government will seek to provide technical and other services, including those in the area of informatics, to help channel savings towards investment. These will comprise directories on available and possible investment opportunities and an expansion of existing infrastructure to serve the establishment of new industries, especially those of a labour-intensive character. The government will also provide partial financing for marketing studies and product-development projects.

At the same time, the government will persist in combating the other negative effects of the Gulf crisis, especially the recession experienced by the various sectors as a result of the closure of Jordan's principal export markets. Efforts will be expanded to find new markets for exports, to conclude new trade agreements with friendly and sister states, to support the drive to upgrade production and to provide economic activities with flexibility and a degree of immunity from fluctuations in the traditional markets.

On the other hand, my government will sustain its efforts to restore economic relations with neighbouring Arab countries to their original course, which is dictated by considerations of historical ties, geographical proximity and shared interests. We have, in fact, already recommended the process of cooperation. Thanks are due to the government of the sister country of Saudi Arabia for removing obstacles to trade exchanges, thus resuming the decades-long process of economic cooperation to the benefit of both brotherly peoples.

My government will continue to exert every effort to rectify the course of our national economy and deal with the basic problems of recession, unemployment, fluctuations in the balance of payment and the budget deficit. We are encouraged that initial indicators show a positive trend in the Jordanian economy

(Continued on page 5)



# The man from Gaza

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As the first Arab-Israeli peace talks were inaugurated in one Western country where Muslims, Christians and Jews had once lived in harmony together, the world community was introduced to both old and new faces in Middle Eastern politics.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa were visible entrenches in the political status quo of the region after years of experience and exposure. The Lebanese delegate Fares Bouaz was a new face, not surprisingly so since very few have had a chance to become old in Lebanon.

The Jordanians and Palestinians stood out in that they introduced not only new faces but new styles to their image abroad and at home. Men and women, old and young, Muslim and Christian all were there and all were talking.

The maximum exposure, the openness with the press and the multitude of speakers, all indicated that these people were coming from societies undergoing a change. The feudal autocratic political trends had been undergoing change in both societies and nowhere was it more evident than in Madrid.

The old guard for better or for worse was being replaced. Noticeably absent from the Palestinian delegation was the one face that has come to be the face of Palestine to the world. Yasser Arafat was not there. For the first time in contemporary Palestinian history, another face, another man, another style spoke to the world in the name of Palestine.

His name and his face were unknown to the world community. Even to most Palestinians, the Gaza physician was an elegant elderly gentleman who they had never seen or heard of.

The world community ruled that Dr. Abdul Shafi's eloquent presentation of the Palestinian case in front of the world tribunal had no equal in Madrid. Almost overnight the place of the Palestinian people became clear. The Western world had been the slowest of all history students, but suddenly it all fell into place, even for them. The Palestinian fighters bearing arms, the refugees, the stone-throwing youths, the images that the Palestinians had brought to peoples' minds, presented to them in a language they understood, finally made sense.

Sharing with their enemies, a history of repression and denial of identity, the Palestinians reached out to the Israelis in a gesture of peace. The Israeli answer was one of refusal, but the man from Gaza refused to be provoked into an emotional rash reaction. Dr. Abdul Shafi continued to speak of peace and the spirit of co-existence.

For those who knew him before Madrid as a physician, a founding member of the biggest and most important Palestinian institution anywhere — the Palestine Liberation Organisation — and as a deportee, he had always been a community leader.

Many observers noted that the Palestinians needed both a leader of the present and one who had a strong connection with the past to present their case to the world. No one suited that role better than Dr. Abdul Shafi. At 72 he is the father figure that the Palestinians have always sought. As a founding member of the Palestinian parliament in exile, the Palestine National Council, he symbolises the political camp that fought to liberate the land by the same means that it was taken: by force. His status as deportee made him a symbol of the Palestinian suffering and his occupation as a physician made him a healer.

The political reality and the military forces that brought the Palestinians and Israelis together in Madrid also helped create the people who went to Madrid. At 72, Dr. Abdul Shafi is almost as old as the Palestinian-Israeli conflict itself. He saw how the roots of the conflict grew in the 1930s and 1940s and watched how his native Gaza was turned into a giant refugee camp as a result of the 1947-48 war. He was there when Gaza was invaded and occupied by Israel in 1956 and again in 1967. He watched as Gaza, one of the most overpopulated areas in the world, became the birthplace of the Palestinian intifada, the uprising.

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Dr. Abdul Shafi speaking against the Israeli occupation.

**History of service**

Dr. Abdul Shafi began his professional life as a servant to the political order that claimed to give Arabs their freedom. After finishing medical school at the American University of Beirut, Dr. Abdul Shafi served as a medical officer in the "mechanised brigade" of the second regiment of what was known as the 9th army in 1944. The 9th army was one component that made up the forces which were supposed to open the second front in the Balkans against the Axis powers in World War II.

Shortly after the war ended, Dr. Abdul Shafi was called on to aid care the over 200,000 Palestinian refugees that poured into Gaza as the result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. "We were swamped; the population of Gaza was 100,000 and all of the sudden it tripled; there were refugees everywhere," he recalls.

Born into a well-to-do family and the son of a member of the Supreme Muslim Council, Dr. Abdul Shafi was able to go to Dayton, Ohio, to continue his post-graduate studies at the end of 1949.

Opening a private clinic upon his return in 1954, Dr. Abdul Shafi was barely establishing himself when the Israelis overran Gaza and occupied it on their way to fight Egypt's Jamal Abdul Nasser in 1956.

"They came, occupied and killed. They had no mercy," he recalls today, noting that "we have no feelings of revenge despite all that they did to us." It was after four months of occupation and many deaths

that the Israelis finally withdrew early in 1957.

"Many people were lined up and shot; there were many massacres perpetrated by the Israelis in Khan Yunis, Rafah and Gaza City," Dr. Abdul Shafi recalls of a time when he treated mostly people with shot wounds.

"The occupation lasted for four months and a half. Only after the American intervention at the time by President Eisenhower did the Israelis withdraw," he said. Eisenhower sent an ultimatum. The next morning everyone woke up and there were no Israelis in Gaza."

Dr. Abdul Shafi compares America's eliot with the Israelis at the time to the situation today. "Only the Americans can change Israel," he says.

Ten years later, Gaza saw the beginning of yet another Israeli occupation; this time it was to be longer and even more brutal than the one that had preceded it.

The occupation authorities wasted no time in forcing their rules on the occupied. In 1969, Dr. Abdul Shafi was hanged for a period of three months to the Sinai for security reasons. Only a few months after his return, he was deported to Lebanon. After a three months' period, Dr. Abdul Shafi and a group of five other deportees were granted special amnesty and allowed to return.

The threat of banishment has remained a reality for Dr. Abdul Shafi and the rest of the Palestinian population living under Israeli occupation. But banishment and oppression have made the Palestinians into exactly the kind of people who are the least likely to accept the status quo.

"If the peace fails," Dr. Abdul Shafi warned, "something terrible will happen; the forces of extremism will prevail."

As the next round of talks between Arabs and Israelis are about to begin, Dr. Abdul Shafi will again lead the Palestinians to the peace table to talk about co-existence.

Having accepted Israel's existence on land taken by force, Dr. Abdul Shafi explains that peace has a price: "for them and for us." "We," he says of the Palestinians, "have paid already."

## King addresses Parliament session

(Continued from page 4)

towards containing the effects of the crisis. Contrary to expectations, the gross domestic product for 1991 has achieved a positive growth of up to one per cent. The ratio of consumption to gross domestic product decreased from 119 per cent in 1990 to 101.5 per cent in 1991, a decrease of 17.5 per cent also, the trade account deficit in the balance of payments was reduced by 16 per cent during the same period.

The government will continue to control expenditure whilst striving to provide a good level of services. It will persist in providing subsidies wherever necessary while ensuring that there is no waste of resources or unjustified growth in expenditure.

The government will continue to deal with the foreign debt and rescheduling process with a view to reducing the burden. It will pay special attention to the management and control of the external and domestic public debt. External borrowing will be curtailed and will be restricted to soft development loans.

Unemployment and poverty continue to pose a great challenge to our social fabric. The government will maintain its strategy of encouraging investment and production geared towards the creation of new job opportunities. In this end, the government has reviewed all relevant regulations which aim at activating the private sector to enable it to play its part in developing the process of production and increasing jobs. It has taken appropriate measures to regulate the domestic market and guest labour. The government has maintained its efforts with sister countries aimed at finding new job opportunities for Jordanian workers.

With regard to those institutions directly involved in combating poverty and unemployment, the government has sought to support social-work and voluntary organisations through providing financing for the implementation of integrated social and productive projects. It has facilitated the provision of easy loans for small projects through the specialised credit agencies. It has expanded the scope of the development and employment fund and has augmented the role of the Vocational Training Organisation to include training, rehabilitation and assistance in the establishment of small projects by its own graduates.

Despite the difficulties facing the Jordanian economy, the government will persist in dealing with the problem of farmers' debts with a view to alleviating the burden it imposes on farmers. The government will exert continuing efforts to resume and activate the development process through a range of measures. These include: instituting a medium-range national development programme, expanding the private sector's role in the production activities, providing for a competitive investment climate, the identifying of sectoral problems, and adopting policies, measures and incentives to enhance private-sector participation in the process of development. The goals of this development programme are to:

1. Activate the development process and achieve positive growth rates that would have a beneficial effect on the standard of living of citizens.
2. Effect a gradual reduction of the ratio of consumption to gross domestic product.
3. Reduce the trade account deficit in the balance of payments through increasing diversifying exports, encouraging tourism and remittances from abroad, and reducing imports.
4. Augment foreign currency reserves, reduce the reliance on foreign loans and decrease the debt burden.
5. Reduce the budget deficit through introducing structural reforms with regard to expenditures and revenues and targeting subsidies directly to those who need them.

My government is currently preparing a national strategy for the protection of the environment with the purpose of ensuring a sustainable ecological balance among its principal components in such a manner as to protect the well-being of the citizens now and in the future. It is also

working on activating local councils and enabling them to play their part in the development of our cities, villages and local communities on an integrated basis.

My government accords the important issue of water the highest priority. It is fully cognisant of the political, legal, economic, social and technical aspects of the difficult water situation in the country. This requires not only an effective management of water resources, but also a policy of conservation, augmentation of available resources and a constant search for new sources. Through these measures, we hope to meet the water needs of Jordan now and in the future.

We would also need to work hard to protect our acquired rights to waters shared by neighbouring countries, within the framework of regional solutions to ensure Jordan's water needs.

### Members of the Upper House, Members of the Chamber of Deputies,

The ratification of the National Charter by our people was in an expression of their national and human aspiration. We must, therefore, regard the principles of the charter as guiding rules to our political action and democratic approach, as well as our social, scientific and economic progress. Recourse must be made to the charter by all our institutions in the process of enacting legislation, drawing up strategies or instituting plans in the various walks of life and as a means of ensuring the rule of law and strengthening our democratic society. The National Charter must be faithfully honoured and consulted at a stage of our development when we seek to bolster equality, justice and equal opportunity in this country which has carved out for itself a glorious chapter in the nation's modern history through its unique response to the difficult challenges it has faced as well as through its unbending commitment to its national pride.

We are at the thresholds of a new era which holds the prospects of profound and radical changes. These enormous challenges impose on us the responsibility of facing them with wisdom and foresight. They require us to widen the scope of our awareness and our future hopes and to reject signs of divisiveness and weakness of resolve.

My government, therefore, will interact with this new phase with enhanced courage, sense of responsibility, discipline and awareness in order to protect the country and its citizens from all dangers or conspiracies and in order to bolster its achievements and its dignity, security, progress and prosperity. We must all realise that Jordan's historic pan-Arab role continues to assert itself.

In order to preserve this role, we have had to cope with the burden of being besieged and misunderstood. We have chosen to rise up to the challenge because of the principles upheld by our forebears as they hoisted the liberating flag of the Great Arab Revolt. It was the same principles that our soldiers defected on the walls of Jerusalem and on the two banks of the river. As we rise to the battle for peace, we shall remember the sacrifices made by our ancestors in fighting injustice, aggression and oppression and in seeking justice, peace and freedom for the country, its people and its future generations.

Peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessings.

## Feelings run deep as Algerians prepare for multi-party election

By John Baggaley  
Reuters

ALGIERS — Ahmed Ben Bella, former Algerian president and a party leader in the country's first multi-party general election next month, ran into a barrage of shots at a rally in the eastern town of Souk Ahras.

Throwing shoes — in this case by bearded fundamentalists — is an extreme insult in Arab culture and the incident showed the depth of feeling as Algeria prepares for an unprecedented experience — free elections after decades of one-party rule.

"Traitors... trying to hide your treachery behind your beard," Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), shouted back at the hecklers, to whom his age — 74 — and status counted for nothing.

The event was widely reported in national newspapers, amid the cacophony of political debate, as 49 parties and 1,089 independent candidates — a total of 5,790 hopefuls — stand by to chase the electors in earnest.

Poised on the brink of an experiment which could bring either democracy, uncertainty or an Islamic fundamentalist state to this North African country of 25 million people, Algeria is being carefully watched by its North African neighbours.

France, with its large immigrant community, Algeria's trade partners and creditors, and Gulf Arab nations where democracy is largely unknown, are also keeping a keen eye open.

Campaigning starts officially on December 5, with voting on December 26 and a second round, in areas where an outright winner fails to emerge, on January 16.

Hanging over it is uncertainty over whether the most powerful opposition, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), will take part. The only party competing for every one of the 430 seats in the new parliament, it is followed by the National Liberation Front (FLN), which ruled from independence in 1962, chasing 429

seats. The FLN is already talking about a post-election coalition or government of unity, another "first".

Other leading parties, by numbers of candidates now officially released, are the centre-right Algerian Renewal Party (361), the Islamic Party Hamas (380), Ben Bella's MDA (334), and the Socialist Forces Front of Independence war veteran Hocine Ait Ahmed (322).

Protests by FIS militants led President Chadli Benjedid to postpone the elections from the original date, June 27. At rallies since the FIS has erected huge prison-type bars as a reminder that its detained leaders still dictate its actions.

As the next round of talks between Arabs and Israelis are about to begin, Dr. Abdul Shafi will again lead the Palestinians to the peace table to talk about co-existence.

Having accepted Israel's existence on land taken by force, Dr. Abdul Shafi explains that peace has a price: "for them and for us." "We," he says of the Palestinians, "have paid already."

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## France wins international water skiing tourney in Aqaba

A Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The French water skiing team Sunday won the Aqaba International Skiing competition with a total of 4,788.1 points.

The Swiss team came in second with a total of 4,221.5 points followed by the British team with 4,148.3 points.

The tournament, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, was organised by the European Skiing Federation

in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian Marine Sports Federation on the occasion of King Hussein's birthday.

### Slalom competition

In the Slalom competition Germany won the ladies event with 570.4 points followed by Switzerland with 564.9 points and Britain with 515 points.

In the men's 35-44 age-group Austria won first place with 697.8 points followed by France with 692.2 points and Switzerland with 686.7 points.

686.7 points.

In the 45-54 age-group Switzerland won first and second places with 245.4 and 642.4 points, followed by Germany with 631.3 points in third place.

France won in the men's over-55 group with 481.8 points followed by Italy with 387.7 points and Sweden with 348.9 points.

### Tricks competition

Switzerland won the ladies tricks competition's first and second places with 338.2 and 246.2 points followed by Germany in third place with 183.1 points.

In the men's 35-44 age-group Denmark won first place with 400.3 points followed by Italy with 379.6 points and Sweden with 251.3 points.

In the 45-54 age-group Sweden won first place with 245.1 points. France came second with 206.9 points and Germany finished third with 191.3 points.

In the over-55 group Switzerland came first with 141.7 points followed by France with 108.6 points and Britain with 104.5 points.

### Jump competition

Switzerland won the women's jump competition with a jump of 24.3 metres followed by Britain with 22.9 metres and Denmark with 22.5 metres.

In the men's 35-44 age-group Austria won first place with a jump of 34.2 metres followed by Germany with 34.1 metres and Italy with 32.5 metres.

In the 45-54 age-group Austria won first place with 32.7 metres followed by Germany with 29.9 metres and France with 26.5 metres.

Britain won in the over-55 group with 23.7 metres followed by France with 21.7 metres and Italy with 15.6 metres.

The competition was held over a period of five days at the Aquamarina Hotel in Aqaba. It was opened Thursday by Minister of Youth Saleh Ibsaidat.

Fifty-five participants from Austria, Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Greece, France and Spain participated.

The participants Sunday visited Pharaon Island and Wadi Rum and are scheduled to visit Petra Monday.

### OVERALL STANDINGS

	Slalom	Tricks	Jump	Total
France	2220.7	646.5	1920.9	4788.1
Switzerland	2558.5	191.2	691.8	4221.5
Britain	1893.9	428.2	1826.2	4148.3
Germany	1816.3	715.7	1354.6	3886.7
Austria	2204.1	324.8	1171.5	3700.4
Denmark	1234.9	763.4	794.4	2793
Belgium	1456.4	175.8	926.5	2558.7
Italy	1157.5	423	784.4	2364.9
Sweden	1694.6	515.1	—	2208.7
Greece	1138	97.2	140	1375.2
Finland	658	159.3	494.1	1312.4

## Leconte once more becomes the French hero

LYON, France (R) — Henri Leconte once more played the French hero Saturday, carrying his team to victory in the doubles to open a lead of 2-1 over the United States in the Davis Cup final.

Leconte, who pulled off a sensation when he beat Pete Sampras in the second singles Friday, teamed with Guy Forget to beat the experienced American partnership of Ken Flach and Robert Seguso 6-1 6-4 4-6 6-2.

The victory gave the underdogs

an option on their first Davis Cup triumph in almost 60 years when the two return singles are played Sunday.

Spurred on by the deafening roars of 8,000 French fans in the Palais Des Sports, Leconte played another sublime match, producing a series of brilliant return winners and some breathtaking touch shots.

The French duo were mobbed by the whole home team as they came off court at the end of the match and non-playing captain

Yannick Noah could hardly speak for tears of joy.

"We want to win. We can win," he shouted excitedly. Forget plays the first return singles against Sampras with Leconte cocooning the tie against Andre Agassi.

France need to win just one of Sunday's singles to take the cup for the first time since 1932.

As world number seven, Forget had been expected to be the kingpin of France's squad but

he lost the opening singles Friday to Agassi and looked surprisingly fragile at times in the doubles.

Leconte, who fell to 161st in the world after a third back operation in July this year, was in masterly form however as he constantly egged Forget on to victory.

It was their eighth Davis Cup match as a doubles pair and their eighth victory. The American pair had lost only once in 12 previous ties.

## Bayern faces discontent after 5th home defeat

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich, German soccer's flagship for the last 30 decades, continued their disastrous season when they were beaten 4-3 at home by Werder Bremen.

Bayern, who have won the title a record 12 times, suffered their fifth home defeat of the season to slip to 12th place. The Bundesliga's most expensive outfit of stars look like being reduced to spectators in the tight title race.

Eintracht Frankfurt remained

top of the league despite a surprise 1-1 draw at home with Fortuna Dusseldorf.

They lead on goal difference from second-place VfB Stuttgart, 2-0 victors over newly-promoted Duisburg, and Borussia Dortmund, who beat Karlsruhe 1-0 Friday.

With just two games remaining before the Bundesliga's traditional winter break, Bayern seem to have completely lost their way and face a soul-searching winter

of discontent. This season's drama and pathos at the Munich club, who have won the title five times in the last seven years, would provide a fitting script for a sporting soap opera.

A trainer has been fired, a former veteran international lured out of retirement to keep goal and two of German soccer's biggest names brought in to get the club out of trouble. Yet the team's form seems to be getting worse.

Despite the close scoreline, Werder had little trouble in securing their first win in Munich for 23 years against a lacklustre Bayern side who lacked creativity and organisation.

The Bavarians have now lost more games than they have won in Munich's Olympic Stadium, which used to be the most intimi-

dating ground in the Bundesliga. During the week Bayern voted to allow former players Franz Beckenbauer and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge to take over as vice-presidents with the responsibility of improving the playing staff.

Beckenbauer, West Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning coach, and Rummenigge, a former team captain, were the third big names to join the club this season.

After Dane Soren Lerby replaced sacked coach Jupp Heynckes, former national team goalkeeper Toni Schumacher came out of retirement to solve injury problems with the club's keepers.

Bot Beckenbauer and the 18,000 crowd, small by Bayern standards, saw the visitors quickly build up a 3-0 lead with goals from New Zealand striker Wynston Rufer, Marco Bode and Stefan Kolm in the seventh, 32nd,

## Al Wihdat secures league title

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 16th week of the premier division soccer championship's second round ended with Al Wihdat topping the standings as Al Ahli and Al Faisali, with only one point difference struggle to secure second place.

In the first of two matches played at Al Hassan Sports City Stadium, in Irbid, Al Faisali scored a convincing win over Al Hussein of Irbid who recently had some disappointing results.

After missing a penalty shot and a series of attacks, Al Faisali's Firas Khalaleh scored the first goal from another penalty in the 23rd minute. This was followed by a defensive error from teammate Adnan Awad which gave Al Hussein their only goal in the 32nd minute to end the first

half at 1-1.

Jiryes Tadros scored Al Faisali's second goal in the 58th minute followed by Khaled Awad's goal which ended the match 3-1 for Al Faisali.

In the other match played in rain and stormy winds in Irbid, Al Ahli scored a convincing win over Al Arabi.

Al Ahli's Nart Yadaaj scored his team's first goal from a header in the 15th minute as Al Arabi lost quite a few chances but repeatedly tried to attack Al Ahli's goal.

Abdul Razzaq Kokash scored Al Ahli's second goal as Al Arabi faced increasing difficulty in penetrating Al Ahli's defences.

Nart Yadaaj scored his second and his team's third goal in the 80th minute to beat Al Arabi 3-0.

At Al Hussein Youth City, in

Amman, Al Karmel beat Al Jazireh 1-0 thus eliminating Al Jazireh's chance of staying in the first division. Al Jazireh re-

lentless kept attacking Al Karmel's goal hoping to score an early goal, but in a sudden fast turnover Al Karmel's only attack bore fruit as Mahmoud Saleman scored the only goal of the match in the 23rd minute. The second half was slow and did not yield any results and Al Karmel won the match 1-0.

Bottom of the league Al Jeel surprised Al Qadissieh as striker Mahmoud Masarweh scored Al Jeel's two goals in the 28th and 34th minutes. Mazen Shabin of Al Qadissieh scored his team's first goal in the 46th minute followed by another by Ismail Awad.

Munir Hantash was not satisfied with a draw as he scored Al Qadissieh's third goal to win the match 3-2.

Jihad Abdul Mune'm of Al Wihdat topped the scores standings with 14 goals, followed closely by Al Ahli's Waleed Fatafeh with 13 goals. Aref Hussein of Al Hussein has 9 goals while Khaled Awad and Jiryes Tadros of Al Faisali and Mouwaffaq Abu Hindeib of Al Ramtha each have 8 goals.

The 17th week of the cham-



Jihad Abdul Mune'm

ampionship begins Wednesday as Al Wihdat plays Al Hussein. On Thursday Al Jazireh plays Al Arabi, while on Friday Al Karmel plays Al Qadissieh and Al Faisali plays Al Ahli in a match that will decide the runner up to Al Wihdat who have already secured the title. The match between Al Ramtha and Al Jeel has been postponed as Al Ramtha play in Oman in the Asian Clubs Championship.

### JORDAN SOCCER STANDINGS

AFTER THE 16TH WEEK

	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Al Wihdat	14	1	—	30	3	29
Al Faisali	11	1	4	28	13	23
Al Ahli	9	4	3	28	14	22
Al Ramtha	9	1	4	30	13	19
Al Qadissieh	7	2	7	19	24	16
Al Hussein	5	4	6	25	20	14
Al Arabi	4	5	7	22	22	13
Al Karmel	5	1	10	17	36	11
Al Jazireh	2	2	12	13	24	6
Al Jeel	1	1	14	7	46	3

Note: Al Ramtha-Al Hussein match and Al Ramtha-Al Wihdat match have been postponed.

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& YANNAH HIRSCH  
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#### PLAY OR DEFEND?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 8

♥ J 6 3

♦ Q J 9 4

♣ K J 6

WEST

♠ 7 2

♥ Q 9 7 2

♦ 10 7 2

♣ 10 7 4 3

EAST

♠ K 4

♥ A 10 8 5

♦ 9 8 5

♣ A Q 9 8

SOUTH

♠ Q 10 9 6 5 3

♥ K 4

♦ A K 3

♣ 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣

Here's another opportunity to test your analytical skills. Study all four hands and decide whether or not South should make four spades.

If East goes up with the ace of hearts and returns the suit, declarer wins the king and takes a trump finesse, losing to East's king. But

cash out four diamond tricks for a club discard from hand. Declarer will concede only one club trick, making four-odd.

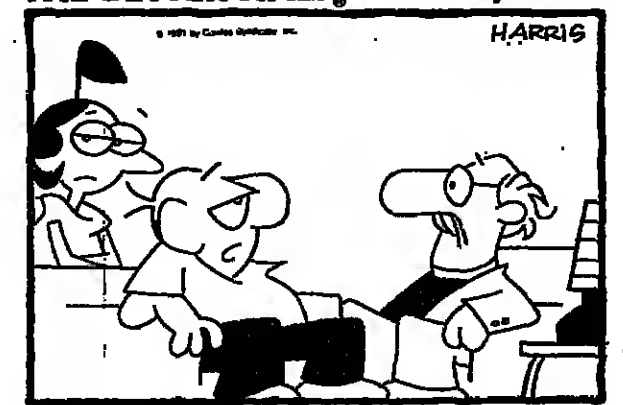
The defenders can do better, however. Suppose that East inserts the ten of hearts at trick one. Now you can win the king and take the trump finesse (or lead ace of trumps and another). East takes the king and leads a low (Q) heart to West's queen. West shifts to a club and the defenders take two club tricks to go with the heart and spade already in the bank. Down one.

Have you changed your mind about the outcome of the hand? Did you elect to defend? Well, let's go back to the first trick. Now suppose that declarer plays the jack of hearts on the lead of the two. East's goose is cooked. No matter what the defenders do, West cannot gain the lead to push a club through. In the fullness of time declarer will get a club discard on the diamonds and make four spades.

### HORSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

#### THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When I go to heaven, will I get a halo big enough to cover my bald spot?"

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Here's what I have. Wait—here I am.

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### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (November 25-November 29, 1991)

AMMAN — The U.S. currency rose substantially against European currencies last week, in a technical correction that was made possible in the context of other favourable factors. These ranged from positive U.S. economic reports, to market concerns over the possibility of another Soviet coup. The dollar thus ended an average of two per cent higher against major European currencies, compared to the previous week, but only marginally higher against the yen.

The dollar rallied against European currencies Monday, but dropped sharply against the yen. The movements were attributed to technical corrections to balance the dollar's oversold positions last week. The yen's advance was likewise caused by short covering against the mark, which was triggered in Tokyo after the governor of the Bank of Japan was reported to have said that a higher rate to the yen is needed to reduce the surging trade balance. The U.S. unit thus ended at its lowest closing levels of the week at 1.5885 marks, 127.92 yen, and 1.7935 dollars to the pound sterling, but above its close at the end of the previous week against European currencies.

Tuesday witnessed wide fluctuations, as the U.S. currency gyrated between a low of 1.5780 and a high of 1.6255 marks, before closing at a slightly lower level in New York. Observers maintained that the dollar was initially sold on the release of October's Consumer Confidence Index in the U.S., revealing a sharp decline to 50.6 per cent, its lowest since the 1982 recession. But the U.S. unit soon reversed direction upon news of a statement made by the German economics minister, in which he was thought to have favoured an exchange rate range of 1.60-1.70 marks to the dollar. Analysts, however, maintained that traders had over-reacted to the minister's comments, pointing out that he was merely stating exporters' views and not German policy. German official statements confirmed this analysis later on. Nevertheless, the dollar breached resistance at 1.60 marks and 130 yen to close in New York at 1.6110 marks and 130.10 yen.

The U.S. unit rose again Wednesday, buoyed by a couple of strong economic U.S. data releases. Weekly jobless claims fell by 80,000 and October's Durable Goods Orders soared by three per cent compared to its 4.2 per cent drop the previous month, thus overshadowing a 0.4 per cent decline in October's Consumer Spending. The U.S. currency also received a political boost from comments by Russian and Soviet foreign ministers who alluded to the possibility of another coup in the USSR very soon, if economic conditions continue to worsen.

Market sensitivity to Soviet reports and rumours lingered in the Far East and Europe towards the end of the week, with the U.S. traders away on Thanksgiving holidays. Thursday, and particularly after Lithuania's deputy prime minister reiterated the same fears regarding a possible coup. The dollar thus reached a peak of 1.6350 marks Friday, with mark sales for yen accentuating the dollar's gains against the mark, but limiting it against the Japanese unit. But news later on during New York trading, that President Gorbachev dismissed the reports, helped to ease the dollar, particularly with market participants hesitating to keep open positions over the weekend. The dollar thus ended the week substantially higher against European currencies but with limited gains against the yen, which ended substantially higher against the mark at 79.93 yen to the mark, compared to 81.67 yen to the mark at the end of the previous week.

Market participants await the release of a string of U.S. economic reports this week, which analysts expect will largely determine the direction of the U.S. currency, especially after most traders covered their dollar short positions last week. They explained that the Soviet troubles were grasped as a welcome opportunity to correct a technically oversold position, adding that it would be harder for mere Soviet speculation alone to hold the dollar up against the flow of U.S. economic data. Technical analysts, on the other hand point to a trading range of 1.60 to 1.65 marks during the course of this week, with strong support at 1.6255 marks and resistance at 1.6430 marks. Over the longer term, some expectations still point to 1.55 marks to the dollar before the end of January 92.

#### New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	22/11/91 Close	29/11/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.7935	1.7683	(1.41)%
Deutsche Mark	1.5845	1.6257	(2.53)%
Swiss Franc	1.4105	1.4342	(1.65)%
French Franc	5.4165	5.5509	(2.42)%
Japanese Yen	129.41	129.95	(0.42)%

\* USD Per STG

#### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6810	0.6830
Sterling Pound	1.2030	1.2090
Deutsche Mark	0.4185	0.4206
Swiss Franc	0.4743	0.4767
French Franc	0.1226	0.1232
Japanese Yen*	0.5235	0.5261
Dutch Guilder	0.3718	0.3737
Swedish Krona	0.1141	0.1147
Italian Lira*	0.0556	0.0559
Belgian Franc	0.0234	0.0244

\* Per 100

## Recession swells demand for help in U.S.

CHICAGO (R) — The hungry and the needy are asking for help in swelling numbers across the United States as Christmas nears in the grip of a recession which has robbed many of their jobs, charitable agencies have said.

A food pantry in the largely white, usually affluent suburbs northwest of Chicago ran out of food. A church in San Francisco reports that middle class contributors have stopped writing cheques. The Salvation Army is trying to find a way to help millions more than it did last year.

"The need has increased tremendously," Leon Ferraz, a spokesman for the Salvation Army, said.

"Last year we helped 6.8 million (at Christmas time). We are expecting to assist nearly eight million this year," he said. "The need keeps going up but the money doesn't."

"We're seeing almost a white collar kind of poverty," Mr. Ferraz added. "People are worried about being laid off (losing jobs),

uncertain about their future. They really don't know what's going to happen. They're not spending money."

"We need to raise maybe \$170 million, as opposed to \$155 million last year. In some areas of this country there is a 200 per cent increase in demand for services," he said.

In San Francisco, the Reverend Cecil Williams, pastor of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, said:

"I've been here 20 years and I have never seen the lines increase so rapidly. There is an intensity, a quickness to it, that surprises us."

The church helps about 4,500 people every day, he said. He estimated the pleas for help have grown by about 25 per cent in the past year.

"We know by the calls we're getting that people want quick relief. They want it in regards to food first. They want some kind of shelter, and clothes," Reverend Williams said.

"The critical thing is that we're down 30 per cent in money (con-

tributions) from last year. We're down about 45 per cent in what we call middle class contributions — the checks for \$25 to \$100."

This recession is really hitting middle class America," he said.

In Chicago the local office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews said it was swamped with requests for help after it announced a food programme for residents of public housing estates.

"We're finding it overwhelming," said the Reverend Stanley Davis.

In the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, the town's relief office had to stop its food pantry operation when it ran dry before the traditional Thanksgiving holiday.

The office said it had more requests for food baskets than ever before, and had to dip into contingency funds to meet that need.

Sally Wilson, spokeswoman for Catholic charities in San Francisco, said: "We were out of food at one of our centres. There were many more young families who

have been out of work for some time now. It's worse than last year."

In Houston, where an annual outdoor Thanksgiving dinner was served for the homeless, poor and hungry, officials reported a crowd bigger than ever before.

"We fed 17,000 people last year. We fed 20,000 this year," said Tammy Bohon, chairman of the event.

Meanwhile, American consumers are entering the crucial Christmas shopping season with their confidence at its lowest level in more than a decade, according to a survey which spells bad news for retailers.

The consumer confidence index compiled by the Conference Board, a business research group, fell to its lowest level since May 1980, dropping to 50.6 from 60.1 in October, when it was already described as recessionary.

The index is based on a 1985 average of 100.

A separate survey published by the University of Michigan said

consumer sentiment fell to 69 last month from 78.3 in October, according to sources who have seen the private report. University officials were not available to comment.

"The sharp decline in consumer confidence over the past two months cuts across all segments of the population — all age groups, all income brackets and all regions of the country," said Fabian Linden, executive director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Centre.

This is the classical profile of a recession."

U.S. share prices fell last week on the latest sign of economic weakness, while treasury bonds rallied on the assumption that weak confidence could lead to another cut in interest rates.

The dismal numbers do not augur well for retailers, some of whom depend on the last five weeks of the year for half their annual sales or more.

With consumers particularly concerned about the availability

of jobs, and few expecting to see their incomes rise, they have been keeping a tight grip on their wallets in a vicious cycle that drags the economy further down.

"Consumers' growing concern about job security appears to be a major cause for the precipitous drop in confidence," Mr. Linden added.

Of those surveyed, only 4.8 per cent said jobs were plentiful, while 47.9 per cent said jobs were hard to get.

Consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of all goods and services produced in the United States and is never more important than during the Christmas shopping season, which traditionally starts in early December.

The University of Michigan index, based on a 1966 level of 100, has not been below 69 since February, during the Gulf war. In February the index was at 62, according to the Commerce Department, which uses the report in its monthly index of leading indicators.

## Algerian parliament allows foreign companies to invest in energy field

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's decision to open its oil, gas and mineral wealth to foreign exploitation and expertise should bring it welcome hard cash next year and long-term better oil production, diplomats and industry experts said Sunday.

"Just about every big oil company in the world is interested," one oil industry expert said.

The Algerian parliament Saturday night passed laws allowing foreign firms, up to now banned from sharing output at existing

fields, to take up to 49 per cent in known and future oil, gas and mineral reserves.

The state oil and gas giant Sonatrach will keep a minimum of 51 per cent.

"Shell, B.P. and Exxon, which probably have the cash and resources to do it, are very interested... I know that Neste, the Finnish firm, is also keen. A lot of its crude came from Russia which has dried up," the oil industry expert said.

Algeria forecast earnings from its sweet, or low sulphur, oil and its gas next year at \$11.45 billion. Last year its mines produced \$45 million in exports, including iron ore, zinc, phosphates and lead.

The government wants to attract up to \$7 billion quickly to kick-start its economy which has been crippled by shortages of spares and raw materials because of lack of foreign exchange, which had to go to foreign debt repayments.

It also particularly wants to improve recovery rates at its oilfields, notably the biggest, Hassi Messaoud, which provides about half its current 800,000 barrels a day crude production.

Energy Minister Nordine Ait Laoussine, who hopes the change will bring \$14 billion in the next 10 years, said in an interview after the vote. "... It is not possible for a country like Algeria to content itself with a recovery level of 22 per cent when you compare this with that achieved in the world ..."

The government believes foreign expertise and cash can help

overcome poor maintenance and lack of modern technology and lift output to 40 or 50 per cent.

Officials say a one per cent improvement of recovery at Hassi Messaoud would mean an extra 50 million tonnes (392 million barrels) a year.

OPEC member Algeria is also keen to use the power provided by the quality of its oil to increase world prices.

Mr. Ait Laoussine said in an interview in London last month: "We shouldn't shy (away from) using that power to defend our prices... it is a tool in our hands if tomorrow prices are allowed to fall."

Prime Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali put his considerable political muscle into getting the law passed, seeing it as a lifeline for the North African country's 25 million people.

The government insisted investment conditions must be made favourable enough to attract foreigners. In an increasingly competitive climate,

Senior Western oil industry executives, warning Gulf oil producers recently, said new opportunities for exploration and investment, particularly in the Soviet Union, could take foreign investment to areas where re-

wards were greatest.

Last week, Mr. Ghazali said 18 firms had expressed interest ahead of the parliamentary vote. He did not name them.

A Western diplomat said that besides those named by the oil expert, among others known to be interested in an enhanced recovery programme were the ARCO, Texaco, Chevron, Occidental, Total of France, Italy's AGIP and the Danish firm Maersk.

"The key is to attract the American majors who have the financial muscle," he added.

"I am sure it will attract money but it won't be \$7 billion. I think the lower end of about \$2 billion will be in the bag part way through next year."

Another diplomat also forecast "\$2 billion, but I can't see it coming before the second half of next year," pointing to political uncertainty in Algeria.

"The serious companies will wait for the election. A new parliament is not likely to be in place by March," he added.

"The change in the law is a positive development and signifies the intent of the government to continue economic reforms," another Western diplomat commented.

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

Pre-Qualification For Travel Agent Services The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (U.N.-ESCWA) invites companies specialised in International Travel Services to contact the Purchase and Transportation Unit of ESCWA at its temporary office (located in Shmeisani, Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street No. 28, telephone 694351 extension 142) to obtain a pre-qualification questionnaire in connection with Travel Agency Services. Last date for submission of pre-qualification forms will be December 10, 1991 at 1200 hours.



## Ukraine voters tell Gorbachev to recognise independence

KIEV (R) — Ukrainian voters cast their ballots for independence Sunday, ignoring warnings from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that their country would face disaster on its own.

A sample of voters interviewed as they left a polling station on Kiev's Vladimir Street, a short walk from the golden domes of the St. Sophia Cathedral, all said they had voted for independence.

"Of course I voted for independence," said Oksana Alshits, a housewife. "We all think that the Ukraine can survive on its own. We have lots of talented people."

Asked what she thought of warnings of catastrophe from Mr. Gorbachev, she replied: "That's not our business. We want to look after ourselves."

Opinion polls say up to 80 per cent of the 37.5 million voters are likely to back independence for the Ukraine, a strong farming and industrial republic with a population of 53 million and an area larger than France.

Mr. Gorbachev told U.S. President George Bush Saturday that "yes" vote in the referendum did not mean the Ukraine was making a break from Moscow.

"To push matters in this direction would mean heading for disaster — for the union, for the Ukraine itself, for Russia, for Europe and the world," he said in a telephone conversation reported by Soviet News Agency (TASS).

But most Ukrainians are confident that breaking away will bring them greater prosperity.

They hope a pro-independence vote will bring quick recognition from Western countries, including the United States.

Mr. Kravchuk dismissed Gorbachev's warnings that the Ukraine would face catastrophe if it cut itself off from the Soviet Union.

"There will be no catastrophe of any kind," he told reporters after casting his vote for independence in a central Kiev polling station.

He predicted that the pro-independence vote in some parts of the Ukraine might be as high as 90 per cent and firmly rejected suggestions that independence might plunge the Ukraine into a Yugoslav-type conflict with Russia.

"This will not be repeated here," he said.

Meanwhile, 11 Soviet republics agreed at a meeting in Moscow on the right to form their own armies, Ukrainian defence officials said Saturday.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Konstantin Morozov and Vasily Durdinets, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament's Security and Defence Committee, told a news conference that Soviet Defence Minister Yevgeny Shaposhnikov also attended the meeting.

Mr. Durdinets said the republics approved a joint statement saying there was nothing to stop any republic setting up its own armed forces in accordance with what it called the principles of collective security for a transitional period.

"This is the first official docu-

ment concerning the right of all Soviet states to create their own armed forces," he said. Only Georgia did not attend the meeting.

The Ukraine plans to set up its own army and has begun mobilising a separate National Guard for internal security.

Mr. Morozov said: "It was very hard to reach a mutually acceptable agreement on this very important subject."

The right of republics to set up armed forces had always existed in theory but its reaffirmation at the meeting Thursday and Friday was politically significant, he said.

"What is important here is the reaction... of the leadership of the former union to the processes which are happening and their acceptance of those processes," he said.

In a separate development, Kazakhstan leader Nursultan Nazarbayev, certain of winning the republic's first presidential polls Sunday, says he sees the election as a vote on his plans to introduce a free market economy.

"I don't think people should vote for me so much as for the programme we are proposing, so that we can bear the difficult transitional period," Mr. Nazarbayev, the only candidate, told reporters after casting his vote in the capital, Alma-Ata.

His economic programme includes wide-ranging privatisation, freeing of prices, introduction of a new currency and getting more control over the exploitation of

its resources.

But the leadership in this republic of 16 million people acknowledges that living standards are likely to fall as prices rise and inefficient state concerns move towards bankruptcy when state subsidies are gradually withdrawn.

In Washington, the chief of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) believes Mikhail Gorbachev will be forced from power in the Kremlin by the end of this year, U.S. News And World Report magazine said Saturday.

The magazine said in the "Washington Whispers" section of its latest edition that Mr. Gorbachev would be forced from office as president of the Soviet Union if the Ukraine secedes.

In briefings late last month, Robert Gates, the CIA's new director, predicted that after the secession of the Ukraine from the union, Mikhail Gorbachev would be forced to quit by the end of the year, U.S. News said.

The magazine said Mr. Gates' analysis convinced U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft of the need to urge President George Bush to recognise Ukrainian independence.

A CIA spokesman had no comment on the report.

Mr. Bush said Friday that there would be no major break with Mr. Gorbachev over the Ukraine. The United States is expected to begin a process towards recognition of the Ukraine if voters there approve independence.

## Senegal spruces up for Islamic summit

DAKAR (R) — This is not time to be a petty thief in the capital of Senegal, the small West African country which can hardly believe it is about to host the Islamic summit.

Squads of police are rounding up Dakar's riff-raff, placing them out of sight of the kings and presidents coming to the Atlantic edge of the Muslim World.

"Monster round-ups in Dakar: Police on war footing" reported a headline last week in the government newspaper Le Soleil.

But police forays into the coastline grottos where dropouts, criminals and wandering lunatics have made their humble nests are only the most visible sign of a massive security operation for the Dec. 9-12 summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

"Every member of the Senegalese security forces is mobilised," said Mamadou Wahab Tall, the minister-delegate in charge of the summit.

"In the security domain we always have to be pessimistic. We put ourselves in the situation where anything can happen," he said in an interview.

France, which has more than 1,000 troops permanently stationed in the former jewel of its African empire, is lending Puma helicopters to help out with air surveillance, according to Le Soleil.

Kuwait, whose emir is the outgoing OIC chairman, has donated nearly \$9 million worth of vehicles, motorcycles and communications equipment to Senegal's police, para-military gendarmes and frontier force.

Such precautions are understandable when your guest list includes Libya's Muammar Qadhafi, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran.

Senegal will be the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to host a summit of the OIC.

The organisation of more than 40 Muslim or partly-Muslim states was created in 1969 as a Saudi Arabian initiative after an arson attack by an Israeli on the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's third most holy site after Mecca and Medina.

Among the OIC's stated ambitions are defending the cause of Muslims — it estimates their number worldwide to be 1.1 billion — and supporting the Palestinians against Israel.

It remains to be seen if either of these objectives will be advanced at the fifth summit but Mr. Wahab Tall, the minister delegate, predicted that between 35 and 40 heads of state or government will be in Dakar.

Senegalese officials and Arab diplomats say one notable absentee will be Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, who was a far from frequent traveller before the Gulf war and has not set foot abroad since his military defeat by a U.S.-led coalition.

But Arab diplomats in Dakar said Iraq's delegation would try to gain support for a resolution calling on the United Nations to relax its vice-like trade embargo on Iraq.

Whether the move is successful largely hinges on the attitude of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, whose invasion by Iraq triggered the war.

## Timor commission finds it hard to get anyone to talk

DILI, East Timor (R) — An Indonesian government commission investigating last month's army shooting of mourners in East Timor said Sunday it was difficult to get witnesses to talk.

"It is not so easy to meet them (witnesses and relatives of victims) and to ask them. Will they explain openly? It's quite a problem for us... It is not easy to open their mouths," Djelani, the Supreme Court Judge leading the inquiry, told reporters.

East Timorese speak of widespread fear in the territory after 16 years of hardline Indonesian rule in which more than 200,000 people are said to have died through war and famine.

That fear was intensified by the Nov. 12 shooting, when the army says 19 people died as troops fired to defend themselves against a mob.

Several witnesses, some putting the death toll at up to 180, say it was an unprovoked attack on 3,500 mourners who had gone to the Santa Cruz cemetery to mark the death of a separatist in riots two weeks earlier.

Diplomats say some of those wounded in the shooting were too scared to go to hospital. The 89 who did have been in a military hospital for nearly three weeks with only visitors allowed from the International Red Cross.

Mr. Djelani's remarks came after United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced he was sending an envoy to Jakarta to negotiate conditions for a U.N. mission to investigate the shooting.

The shooting has sparked anger in a number of countries, with one, the Netherlands, suspending aid.

The United Nations does not recognise Jakarta's rule in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed the following year.

Many newspapers this weekend published an army-supplied photograph showing youths chanting and waving anti-Indonesian banners just before the shooting in the East Timor capital of Dili.

Mr. Djelani said another problem for the commission had arisen as a result of divisions among the people of Dili, who were split into factions for and against integration with Indonesia.

"If one group gives information to us about the other group, the other group will report to the police," he said.

"If the people we meet go missing, who will guarantee (their safety)?"

The commission is looking for translators to interpret the local Tetum dialect.

One commission member, Sugiman, a senior official in the Interior Ministry, appealed to journalists to stop following the investigators in their search for witnesses.

He said reporters had frightened away people who lived around the Santa Cruz cemetery when the commission visited it Saturday, the third day of its investigation.

The place was deserted when they arrived except for scores of plainclothes security men, many from the feared army intelligence wing.

One plainclothes policeman was discovered in Mr. Djelani's hotel suite where reporters had been invited Sunday morning to talk about events leading up to the shooting.

Stunned silence fell on the room when reporters were asked to identify themselves, and one of them said he was from the police.

The reporters protested, with one saying: "We want to be free to express what we know about this but we don't want anyone who is not a reporter in the room."

## Japanese anti-AIDS posters spark controversy

TOKYO (R) — A poster showing a naked woman inside a condom sparked off a controversy as Japan marked World AIDS Day Sunday. The Society for Women of Action lashed out at the poster, which bears the caption "but strong enough for AIDS," saying it depicted women as sex objects or prostitutes, according to local news reports. Another poster showing a Japanese man holding a passport, with the caption "have a nice trip but be careful of AIDS," was criticised by the Japan International Lesbian and Gay Association as reinforcing the notion that acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) was a foreign disease. "This makes everyone think it's a foreign disease and not a domestic problem," association head Teishiro Minami said. "Many Japanese still don't think AIDS is something that has to do with them," Mr. Minami said, adding that the poster of the man reinforced the idea that men caught AIDS from foreign women. Tokyo City gave free blood tests and staged a concert Sunday, but refused to allow the distribution of free condoms. "The city refused to allow us to distribute condoms at this year's World AIDS Day," Mr. Minami said. "They seem to think it would encourage people to have sex." Newspapers reported that one railway company had refused to display the condom poster because it could be a bad influence on children.

## Italian police free kidnapped teenager

ROME (R) — Police have freed Stefano Giovannetti, an Italian teenager kidnapped a month ago for ransom and held in a cave where he was chained to a wall. Giovannetti, 17, was found in the cave near the town of Frascati, south of Rome in the Alban Hills, where he was abducted, police said. They were led to the cave by two suspects arrested after they made a telephone call demanding a ransom from the victim's family, who own a restaurant and bar in the area.

## 'Granny killer' gets life sentence

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian salesman who terrorised the elderly women of north Sydney for a year was jailed for life for murdering six of them. Judge James Wood said John Wayne Glover, dubbed the "granny killer" by the press, was cunning and extremely dangerous. Glover, 59, had a police record dating back to 1947, some of it involving sexual deviance. He had twice attacked women in the street and tried to remove their underwear before being stopped. Wood said Glover, a pie salesman, also had a police record as a voyeur, the judge said. He had pleaded not guilty to murder but admitted killing the women. The jury found him guilty of murder rather than manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Prosecutor Wendy Robinson said Glover had control of his faculties and could have refrained from killing the women. "He is merely someone who is prepared to commit a crime and to gratify his desires at the expense of others," she told the court Glover hacked remorse and kept the implements of murder — a hammer and gloves — in his car. "He planned strike again after each and every one of the first five incidents," Robinson said. Glover committed the murders between March 1989 and March last year. All but one of his victims was aged over 80.

## Local letter goes 25,000 miles in post office blunder

FELIXSTOWE, England (R) — A letter meant to go from one side of Felixstowe in eastern England to the other took three months to arrive, clocking up 25,000 miles (40,000 kilometres) on the way. The letter first went to Felixstow in South Africa then to Felixstow in South Australia before arriving at the correct address just a few miles from where it was sent in Felixstowe. "I had to look in the Encyclopaedia Britannica to find the remote Zulu village where the letter was first sent," said Stephen Whittell, 29, who sent the letter. It bore the correct street address, had the right postage stamp, but not the post office sorting code. Post office spokeswoman Valerie Goodchild said a lesson could be learnt. She noted: "This case shows how important it is to use the postcode."

## NATO agrees to major command reshuffle

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO, ending months of wrangling over the share-out of military power between Britain, Germany and Norway, has agreed major changes in its command structure for the post-cold war era, alliance sources say.

The restructuring, to be formally approved by NATO defence ministers in Brussels later this month, means that Germany will gain more military influence in Central Europe and that Norway will lose one of the main NATO headquarters.

"This is part of changing the alliance to meet new realities," said one NATO source.

The headquarters for Northern Europe will be moved to Britain from Norway, another command centre in Britain will be closed down and Denmark will come under the military sphere of a German NATO general in Central Europe.

The area of Central and Northern Europe was the most important in military terms for the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) during decades of confrontation with the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact.

NATO defence planners feared a massive armoured strike through Germany, combined with a Soviet naval attack from the huge bases around the Arctic port of Murmansk that would cut off Norway and threaten vital trans-Atlantic shipping lanes.

For that reason, NATO based one major command post near Oslo and concentrated most of its forces in Germany.

Now that this doomsday scenario is just a fading nightmare, the alliance is restructuring its forces into smaller, multinational units that can be deployed quickly from the Arctic to the Mediterranean — and cutting command posts.

A new "Rapid Reaction" Corps, to be set up under British command, is one key element of those forces.

But Germany, which had traditionally played a low-key role in alliance military affairs because of its history, has been pressing for a greater role now that it is united.

Alliance sources said it had been agreed that the Germans should have command of multinational air units that will support the new "Rapid Reaction" Forces on the ground.

In addition, Denmark and the German region of Schleswig-Holstein — once attached to the Northern Command in Norway — are to be reassigned to NATO's Central Command, which is always run by a German general.

The Northern Command near Oslo will be moved to Northwood, near London.

## Poll puts Bush's approval rate below 50% for 1st time

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush's approval rating with Americans has fallen below 50 per cent for the first time since he took office, according to a poll released Saturday by Cable News Network (CNN) and Time magazine.

The poll of 500 Americans conducted on Nov. 26 found Mr. Bush's popularity at 46 per cent.

Mr. Bush's rating was as high as 91 per cent in some polls during the January-February Gulf war but has steadily declined because of the country's economic woes. Only 18 per cent of those questioned in the CNN-Time poll thought Mr. Bush was handling the economy well while 74 per cent rated him poor on economic performance.

Mr. Bush is planning to announce an economic stimulus plan during his State of the Union address in January.

The Los Angeles Times said in its Saturday edition that Mr. Bush was considering a shake-up of his administration because of his declining popularity including a replacement for Chief of State John Sununu. In a story from

Washington, the newspaper quoting unidentified sources reported that several Mr. Bush advisers say they expect the changes before the end of the year, perhaps as early as next week.

In recent weeks, many Republican critics began linking Mr. Sununu with what they characterised as the White House's lack of sensitivity to U.S. economic ills and the need for quick action on a stimulus package, the newspaper said.

Time in its latest edition reports that Mr. Sununu is largely on one side of an internal White House debate over economic and political strategy.

One faction led by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, and joined for the most part by Mr. Sununu and Budget Director Richard Darman, advocates doing as little as possible to change policy, Time said in an article to appear Monday.

It said they fear that a tax-cut bidding war with Congress would get out of hand, deepening the budget deficit and driving up interest rates.

## IRA blamed for firebomb attacks on London stores

LONDON (R) — Firebombs set light to four furniture stores in the heart of London Sunday in attacks police said were probably the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

The fires broke out around 3 a.m. in a coordinated series of attacks that caused damage ranging from slight to severe at three stores in Tottenham Court Road, a top West End shopping street, and at a discount furniture warehouse in North London.

There were no injuries and no claims of responsibility but police said evidence pointed to the IRA, raising fears of a Christmas bombing campaign in mainland Britain by the group fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

"We believe that they were planted by members of the pro-

visional IRA," said Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of London's Metropolitan police anti-terrorist unit.

"We can't discuss the type of device except to say that they were small devices well hidden," he told reporters.

Hundreds of people were temporarily evacuated from their homes in the Tottenham Court Road area and the street was sealed off twice by police investigating the fires.

The second alert occurred when police found a suspect device at a fourth furniture store on the same street.

Security forces in Belfast meanwhile said three stores and a pub were damaged in a series of firebomb attacks also believed to be the work of the IRA.

## U.N. predicts 26% skin cancer rise due to ozone depletion

LONDON (R) — Worldwide skin cancer rates will increase by 26 per cent by the year 2000 if the Earth's ozone layer continues to deplete at current rates, a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report released Monday said.

UNEP also predicted an annual 1.6 million to 1.75 million additional cases of eye cataracts by the year 2000 if the ozone layer diminishes by another 10 per cent by the end of the decade.

The ozone layer of the atmosphere protects the Earth from the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun, a prime cause of skin cancer and eye disease.

Several years ago scientists discovered a hole in the ozone layer

over the Antarctic which they believe was caused by certain ozone-destroying chemicals in the atmosphere, particularly Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

UNEP made the estimates in an update to a 1989 report on the environmental effects of ozone depletion. The original report was issued after most of the world's largest CFC producers agreed gradually to phase out the chemical, which is used in refrigerators, aerosol cans and industrial cleaners.

The report said recent research shows that ultraviolet radiation breaks down the body's immune system and affects all humans, not just those of light colouring as once thought.

## Fighting continues in Croatia

BELGRADE (R) — Sporadic fighting dented a ceasefire in the rebel Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Sunday just hours before United Nations envoy Cyrus Vance was due to begin a peace mission, Croatian radio said.

The former U.S. Secretary of State was due to arrive in Belgrade to decide if conditions are right for the U.N. to send peacekeeping forces to Croatia after five months of bloodshed.

The success of the truce is vital if peacekeepers are to be deployed. It has held for days on many battlefields but fighting worsened in some parts of Croatia Saturday.

On Sunday, Croatian radio reported mortar fire on the town of Podravska Slatina north east of the republic's capital, Zagreb, and said gunfire and explosions were heard in Osijek in eastern Croatia.

It reported no other battles and the Belgrade-based news agency, Tanjug, said troublespots in central Croatia were mostly quiet overnight. It did not initially mention the new fighting reported by Croatian radio.

Both the rival Serbian and Croatian media reported battles between Croatian forces and Serbian irregulars hacked by the Yugoslav army in eastern and central Croatia Saturday.

The new battles marred the 14th ceasefire since fighting erupted after Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia in June and its Serbian minority rebelled.

Croatian media said five people were killed and 24 were hurt in an attack on Osijek Saturday.

Whether the move is successful largely hinges on the attitude of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, whose invasion by Iraq triggered the war.

## Troops leave Togo premier's residence, keep radio

LOME (R) — Fresh fears of a coup against Togo's reformist prime minister eased Sunday when rebellious troops withdrew from overnight positions around his official residence.

However, the army kept its grip on the national radio.

Diplomats said the soldiers appeared to be waging a war of nerves against Prime Minister Joseph Kokou Koffigoh's transitional government, which took over many of military President Gnassingbe Eyadema's powers at a pro-democracy conference.

"I think they just like to keep the pressure on," one Western diplomat said. "They'll keep it up until they get what they want."

The radio continued broadcasting military communiqués demanding dissolution of the West African country's transitional legislative body, the High Council of the Republic (HCR), which last week banned Mr. Eyadema's former ruling party.

Troops withdrew from around Mr. Koffigoh's residence on Mr. Eyadema's orders Saturday morning after a 48-hour siege, but residents and the prime minister's military guard said they returned just before the start of a

dusk-to-dawn curfew.

They said two tanks faced the colonial-style building and dozens of troops patrolled the area throughout the night, withdrawing at around 5 a.m. on 6 a.m.

Rebel soldiers guarding the nearby radio building denied the residence had been surrounded.

The soldiers, who claimed to represent the whole Togolese army, said they would stay in charge of the radio station until Mr. Koffigoh dissolved the HCR and named a new government composed of all the country's political groups.

They refused to say how many troops were posted at the building. Reporters counted some 15 soldiers at the front entrance, grouped around a tank.

"We've got no quarrel with Koffigoh, but the HCR has been taking stupid decisions behind his back," said one soldier, referring to the ban on Mr. Eyadema's Rally of the Togolese People (RPT) Party. Mr. Koffigoh was abroad when the decision was made and said he knew nothing about it.

"We'll stay here until Koffigoh names a new government,"

another soldier said.

Army communiques earlier called on Mr. Eyadema to replace Mr. Koffigoh, but on Friday night the president reaffirmed his faith in the former human rights attorney.

The soldiers denied troops fired directly at crowds in two days of clashes with government supporters Wednesday and Thursday in which at least 25 people were killed. Witnesses at the time said troops shot indiscriminately at passers-by.

They said they fired into the air to protect themselves against hostile civilians, who were attacking lone soldiers in uniform.

Some 100 people have been killed in Togo this year in violence between pro-democracy demonstrators and the army, which is fiercely loyal to Mr. Eyadema.

Sources at the prime minister's residence said Mr. Koffigoh was holding a crisis meeting with aides Sunday morning.

Mr. Koffigoh said Saturday he had started talks to resolve the crisis and would include members of the RPT in discussions, but declined to say if the ban on the party would be lifted.

The seaside capital was peaceful Sunday. Traffic was normal, churches were open and joggers pounded along the beach outside Mr. Koffigoh's residence.

The land border with Ghana, briefly opened Saturday, was closed, but customs officials said Lome International Airport was open outside curfew hours. International telephone links remained in service after a blackout Friday and most of Saturday.

The coup threat is the latest political crisis to shake the country this year, following strikes and street protests to end Mr. Eyadema's iron-handed 24-year rule.

Troops have briefly occupied the radio station several times since the transitional government took power in August, and allegedly tried to kidnap Mr. Koffigoh.

The army later broadcast a formal denial that troops surrounded Mr. Koffigoh's residence Saturday night, saying soldiers had just patrolled the city during the curfew.

It said land borders had reopened and announced a shortened curfew Sunday night from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

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